Archie
ADVENTURE SERIES
NO.22
MAY
$1.50
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG™
THAT GUY IN THE SHADOWS JUST BLASTED THAT 'BOT! WHO CAN HE BE?
HMM... I CAN MAKE OUT A BIG HEAD AND A BELLY TO MATCH! I'LL GIVE YOU ONE GUESS!
SPAZ & DAG

THE RETURN

PART 1

THAT'S FUNNY, SONIC THE HEDGEHOG--

IT WAS *SUNNY* AND *CLEAR* SKIES JUST A MOMENT AGO! NOW IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S GOING TO BE QUITE A *STORM!*

THAT'S MOBIUS WEATHER FOR YOU, SAL! GIVE IT A MINUTE AND IT'LL PASS!

WHAT'S THIS? SONIC AND SALLY "MARRIED WITH CHILDREN?!" IT'S TRUE--SORT OF! CHECK *SONIC IN YOUR FACE SPECIAL #1* FOR DETAILS!--*Scott*

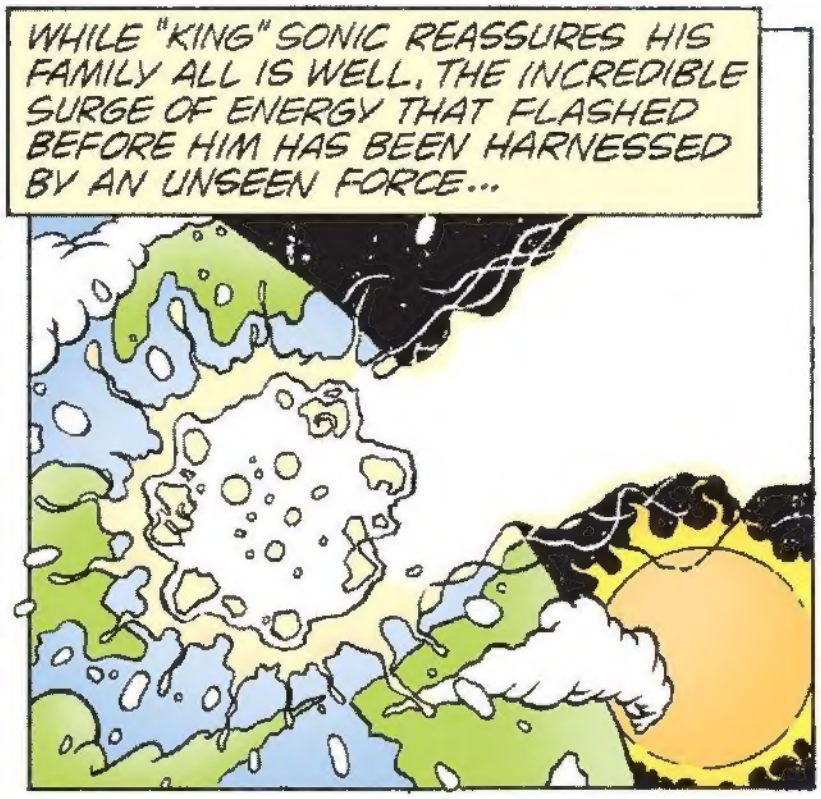
SCRIPT:	PENCILS:	INKS:	LETTERING:	COLORING:	EDITOR:	MANAGING EDITOR:	EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:
KEN PENDERS	PAT SPAZIANTE	HARVEY M.	MINDY EISMAN	BARRY GROSSMAN	SCOTT FULOP	VICTOR GORELICK	RICHARD GOLDWATER

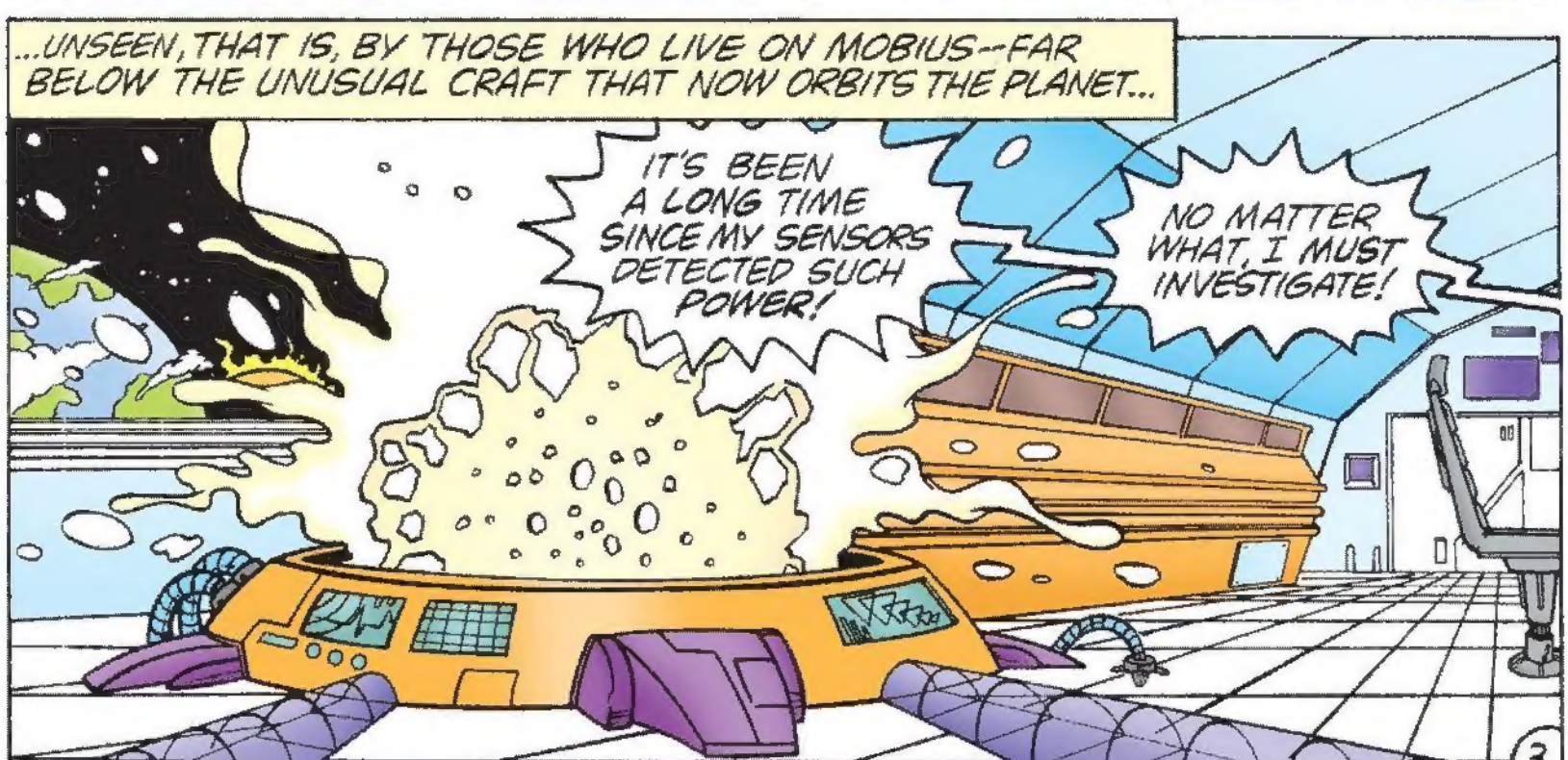
KRAA-KHOOOM!
WHAT IS IT, SONIC? THAT CAN'T BE--
WHAT THE...
WHO IS IT, MOMMY? THAT MAN LOOKS MEAN AND NASTY!
YOU DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT, LI'L PRINCESS.
...AND WHERE DID IT COME FROM?!
DON'T YOU KNOW WHO THAT IS?
KRAAAKHOOOOOOOMM!
IT'S THE BOGEY MAN!

SONIC, DO YOU THINK IT'S POSSIBLE ROBOTNIK HAS SOMEHOW COME BACK?
ROBO-WHO, MOM?!

HE'S GONE, SAL! FINISHED! KAPUT! YOU SAW WHAT HAPPENED ALONG WITH ME! OL' ROBO-BUTT ISN'T EVER COMING BACK!

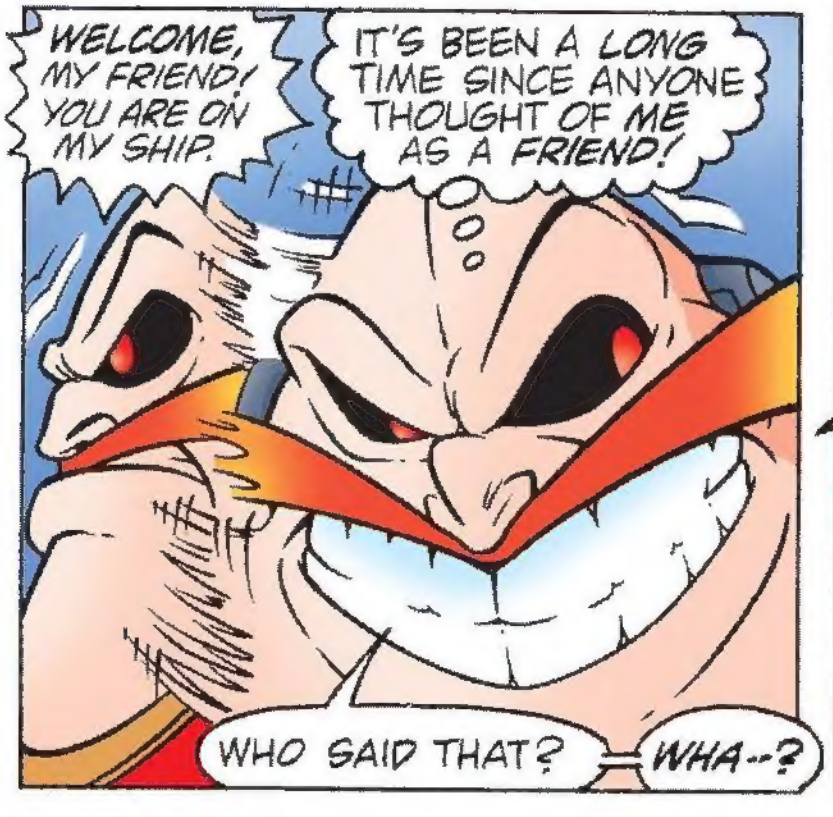
WHAT WE SAW WAS A WEIRD FREAK OF NATURE--
I HOPE.

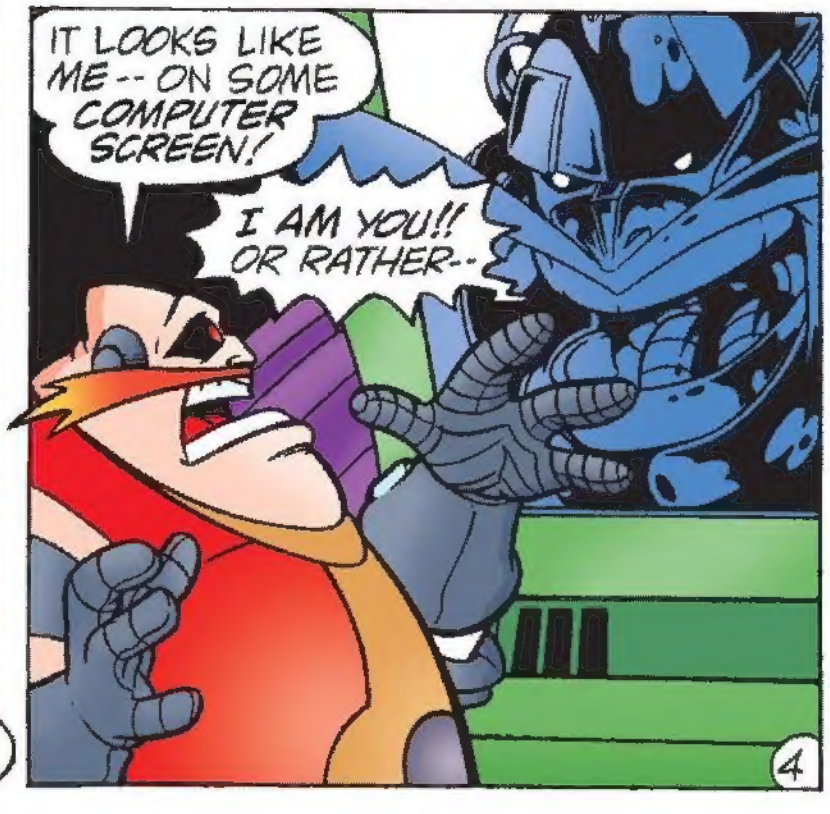

WHILE "KING" SONIC REASSURES HIS FAMILY ALL IS WELL, THE INCREDIBLE SURGE OF ENERGY THAT FLASHED BEFORE HIM HAS BEEN HARNESSED BY AN UNSEEN FORCE...

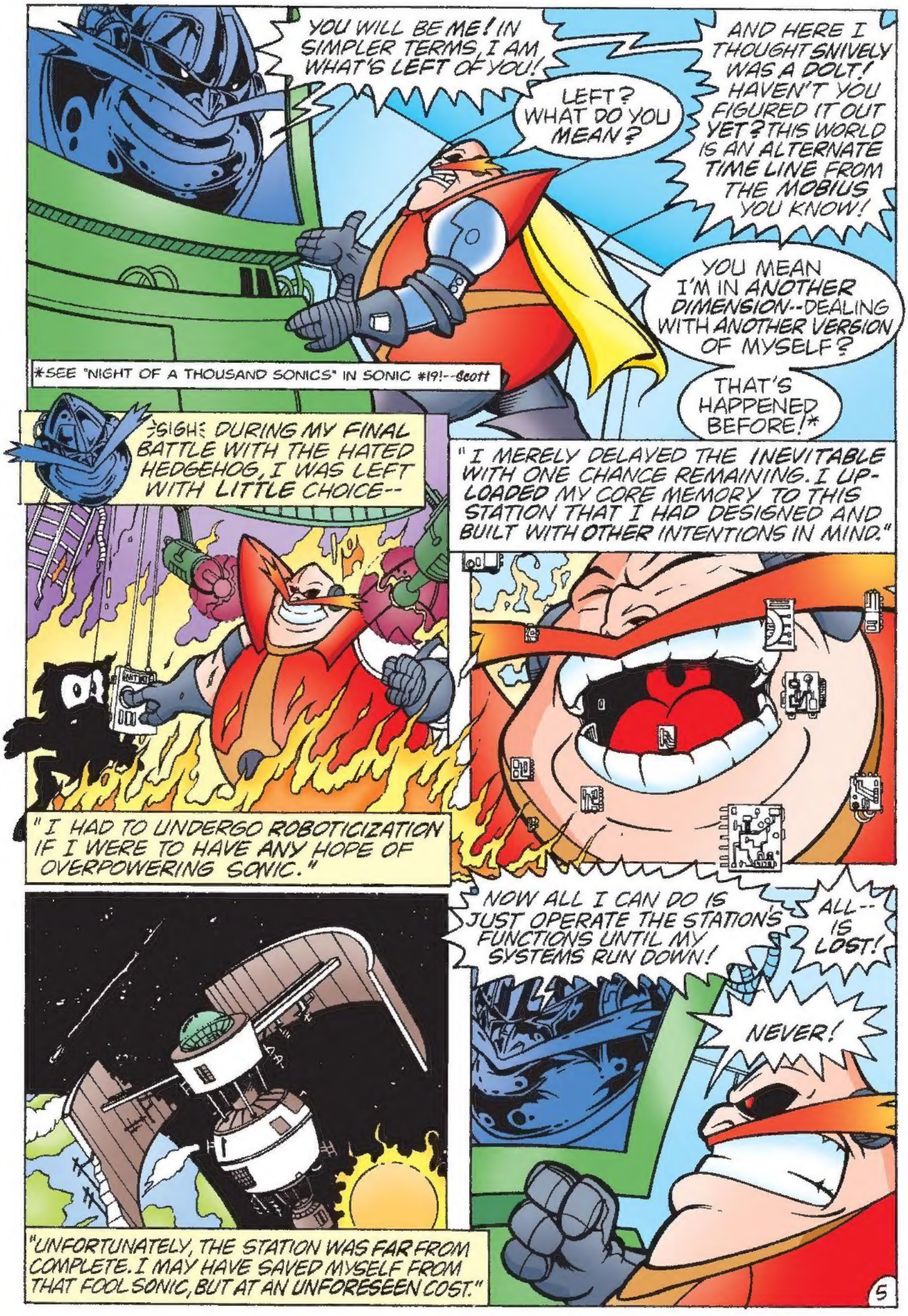

...UNSEEN, THAT IS, BY THOSE WHO LIVE ON MOBIUS--FAR BELOW THE UNUSUAL CRAFT THAT NOW ORBITS THE PLANET...
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE MY SENSORS DETECTED SUCH POWER!
NO MATTER WHAT, I MUST INVESTIGATE!

"IN DOING SO, I MAY FIND A SOLUTION TO MY DILEMMA."
RRRRRRRLLLLLLLLLLLSSSSSS
YOU CAN'T-- YOU--EH?

WHERE AM I?


WELCOME, MY FRIEND! YOU ARE ON MY SHIP.
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE ANYONE THOUGHT OF ME AS A FRIEND!
WHO SAID THAT?
WHA--?


IT LOOKS LIKE ME -- ON SOME COMPUTER SCREEN!
I AM YOU!! OR RATHER--


YOU WILL BE ME! IN SIMPLER TERMS, I AM WHAT'S LEFT OF YOU!
LEFT? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
AND HERE I THOUGHT SNIVELY WAS A DOLT! HAVEN'T YOU FIGURED IT OUT YET? THIS WORLD IS AN ALTERNATE TIME LINE FROM THE MOBIUS YOU KNOW!
YOU MEAN I'M IN ANOTHER DIMENSION--DEALING WITH ANOTHER VERSION OF MYSELF?
THAT'S HAPPENED BEFORE!*
*SEE "NIGHT OF A THOUSAND SONICS" IN SONIC #19!--Scott
SIGH: DURING MY FINAL BATTLE WITH THE HATED HEDGEHOG, I WAS LEFT WITH LITTLE CHOICE--
"I MERELY DELAYED THE INEVITABLE WITH ONE CHANCE REMAINING. I UP-LOADED MY CORE MEMORY TO THIS STATION THAT I HAD DESIGNED AND BUILT WITH OTHER INTENTIONS IN MIND."
"I HAD TO UNDERGO ROBOTICIZATION IF I WERE TO HAVE ANY HOPE OF OVERPOWERING SONIC."
NOW ALL I CAN DO IS JUST OPERATE THE STATION'S FUNCTIONS UNTIL MY SYSTEMS RUN DOWN!
ALL-- IS LOST!
NEVER!
"UNFORTUNATELY, THE STATION WAS FAR FROM COMPLETE. I MAY HAVE SAVED MYSELF FROM THAT FOOL SONIC, BUT AT AN UNFORESEEN COST."

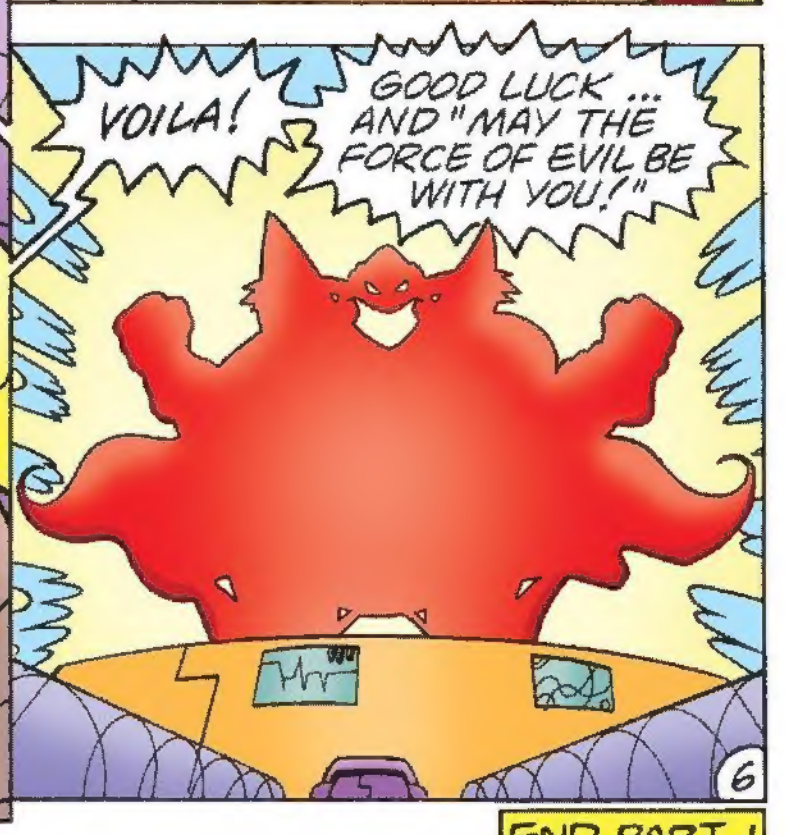
YOU'VE JUST ONLY LOST ANOTHER BATTLE--AS HAVE I!
BUT THE WAR CONTINUES!
LOOK AT ME! IF YOU REMEMBER, I THOUGHT I WAS JUST OBLITERATED!*

INSTEAD, I WAS FLUNG INTO THIS ALTERNATE TIME LINE BY MY RENEGADE CREATION, E.V.E.!*
I SURVIVE--AND LIVE TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY! AND SOMEDAY IN YOUR FUTURE--
--YOU WILL EVOLVE TO THE NEXT LEVEL!
*AGAIN, SEE LAST ISSUE!--Scott

RIGHT NOW, THE CLEAREST COURSE OF ACTION IS FOR ME TO RETURN WHERE I BELONG--SO THAT I MAY ENSURE THAT THIS TIME--
I WIN!

ANY IDEAS HOW I CAN JUMP ONTO THE TRANS-DIMENSIONAL HIGHWAY*TO HOME?
*LAST SEEN IN SONIC #19--Scott

WELL, IF I REVERSE THE POLARITY ON THE FRAMISTAT AND TWEAK THE TOLERANCES A TAD ON THIS DOOHICKEY...


VOILA!
GOOD LUCK ... AND "MAY THE FORCE OF EVIL BE WITH YOU!"

END PART 1

THE RETURN

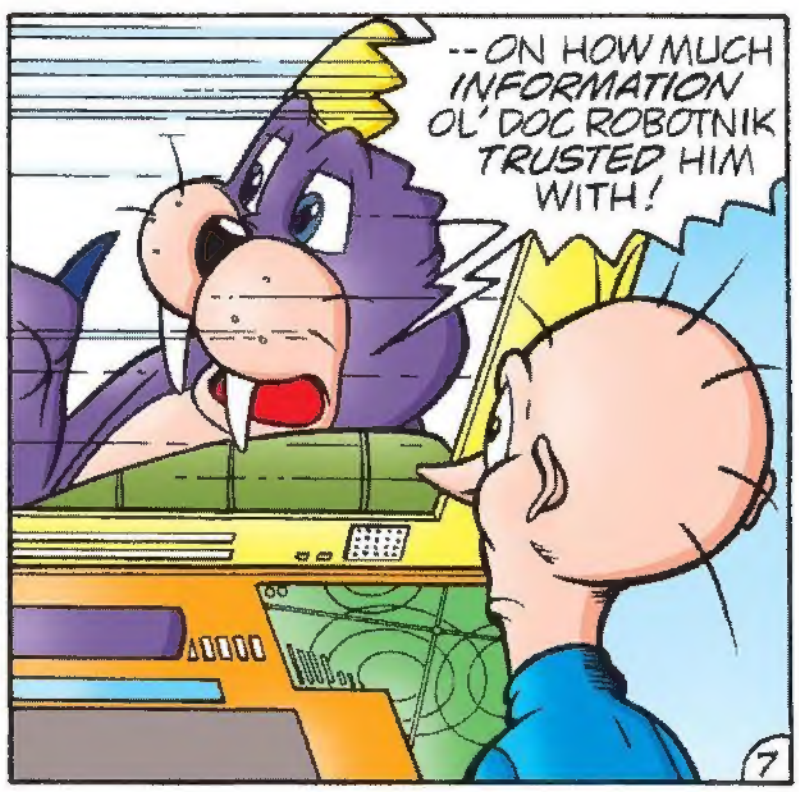
PART 2

EASY WITH THAT, SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!

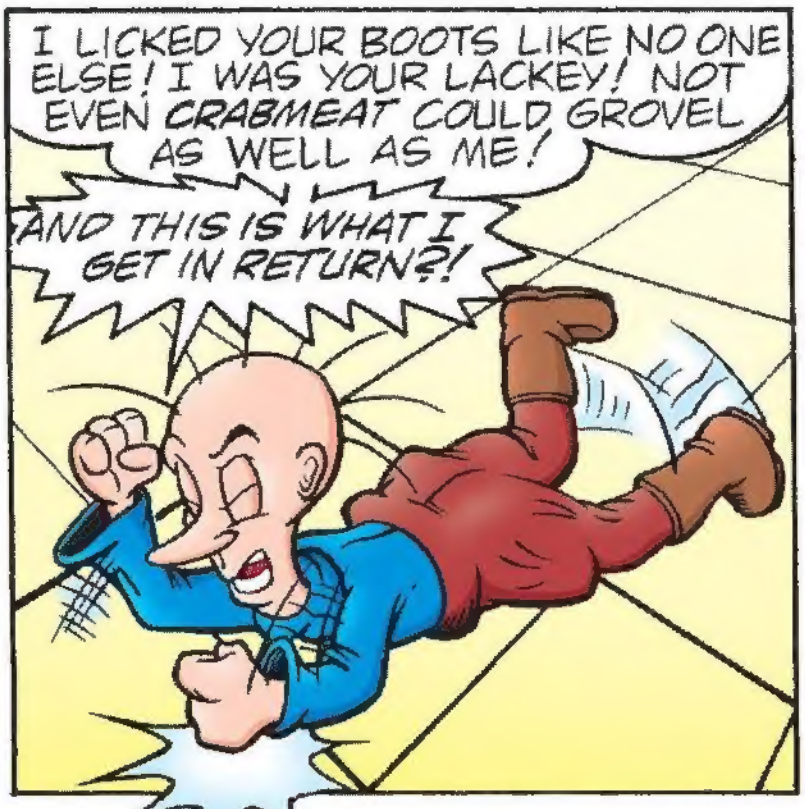
ONE *WRONG* MOVE AND WHO KNOWS *WHAT* COULD HAPPEN!

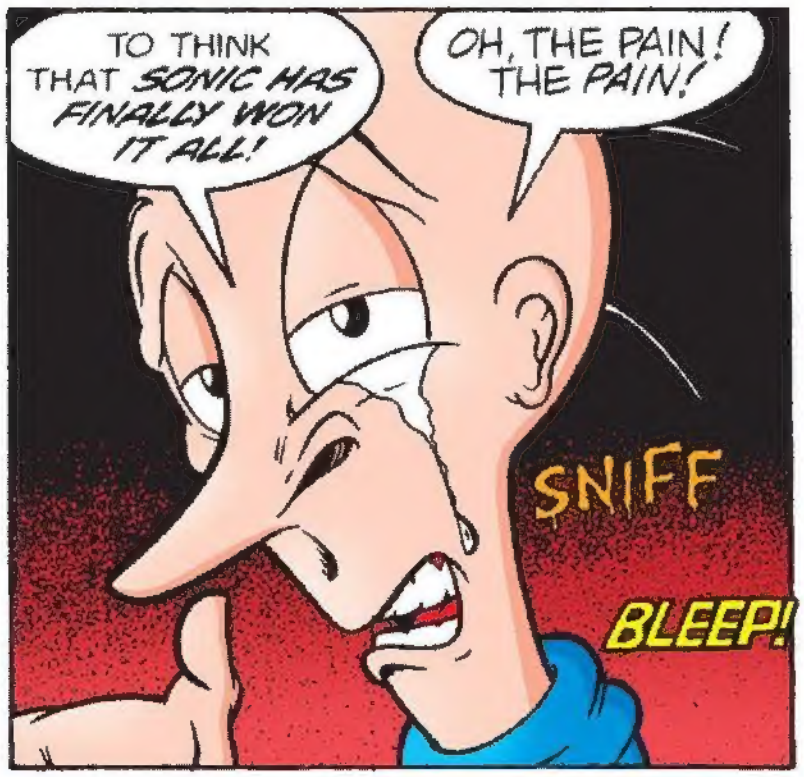
THIS STUFF IS *STILL* DANGEROUS!

C'MON, ROTOR! IT'S ONLY CRATES OF SWATBOT PARTS!

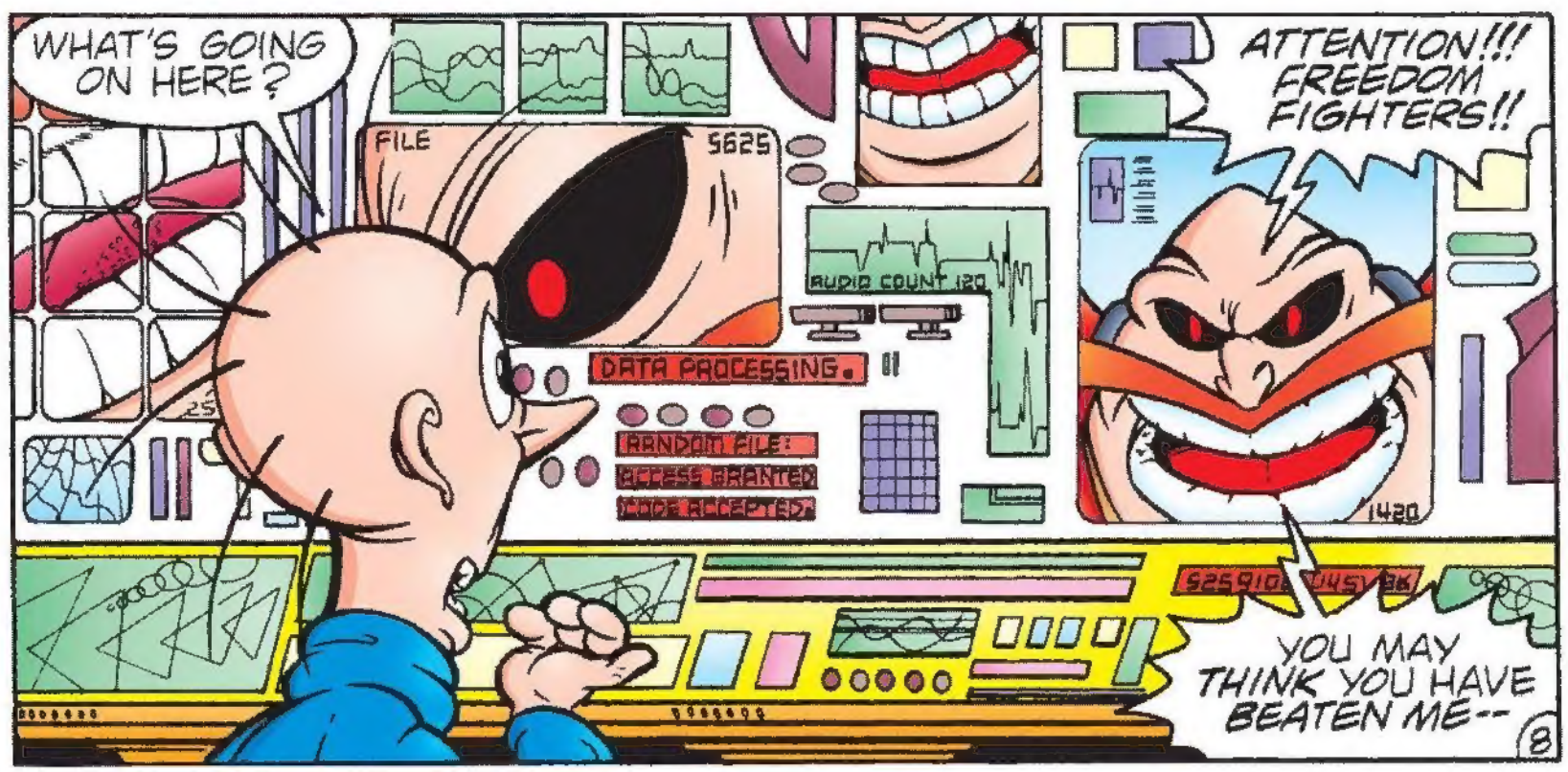


SADLY, THEY'RE CLOSER TO THE TRUTH THAN THEY REALIZE!
CURSE YOU, DR. ROBOTNIK!
ACCESSING


I LICKED YOUR BOOTS LIKE NO ONE ELSE! I WAS YOUR LACKEY! NOT EVEN CRABMEAT COULD GROVEL AS WELL AS ME!
AND THIS IS WHAT I GET IN RETURN?!


TO THINK THAT SONIC HAS FINALLY WON IT ALL!
OH, THE PAIN! THE PAIN!
SNIFF
BLEEP!

HUH?!!
CLICK
WHRR
WHRR
WHRR

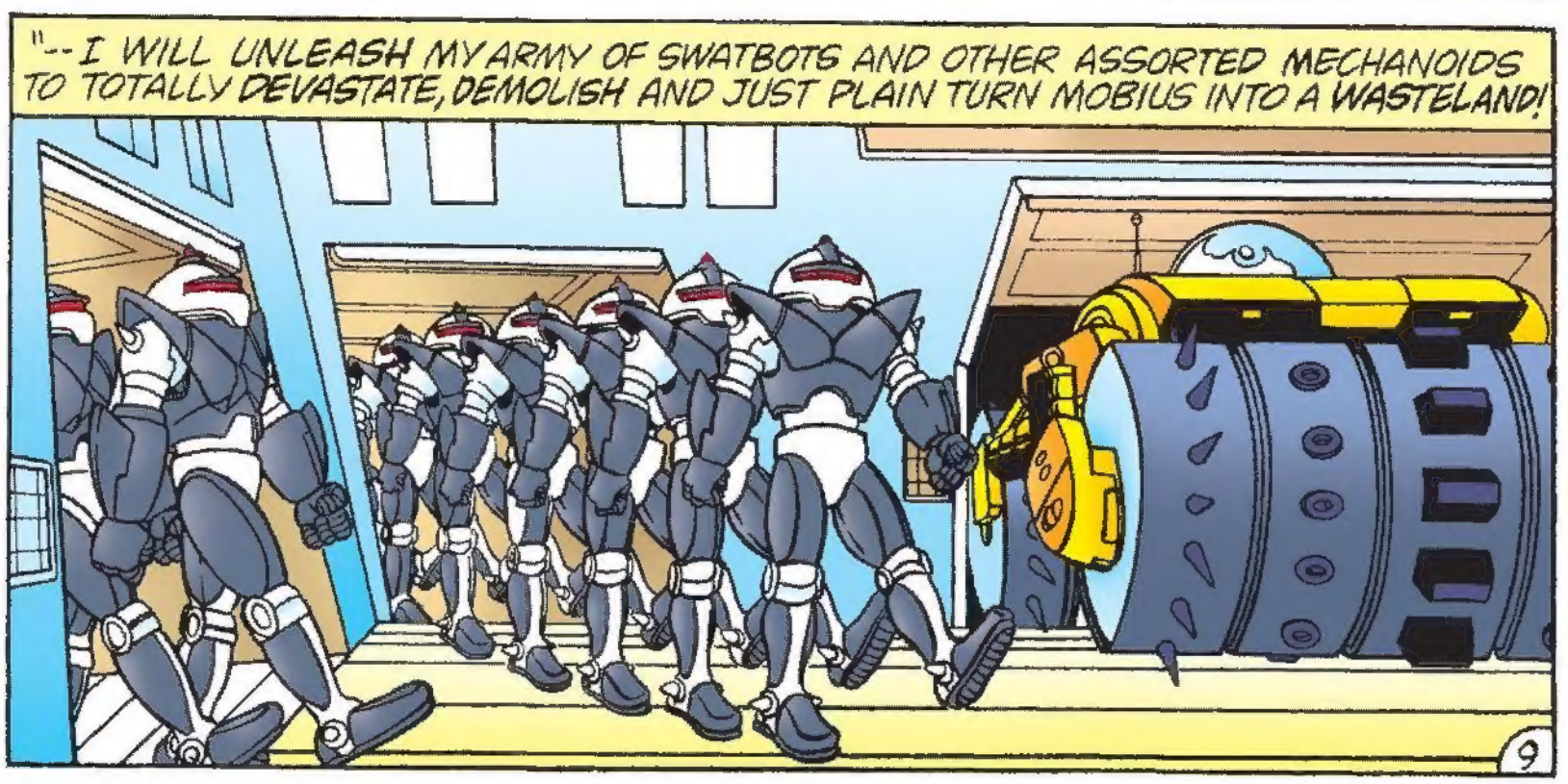

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
FILE
5625
AUDIO COUNT 120
DATA PROCESSING.
RANDOM FILE:
ACCESS GRANTED
CODE ACCEPTED
ATTENTION!!! FREEDOM FIGHTERS!!
1420
YOU MAY THINK YOU HAVE BEATEN ME--

--BUT I HAVEN'T EVEN BEGUN TO FIGHT BACK!
HUH? THAT'S ROBOTNIK!
THAT CAN'T BE!

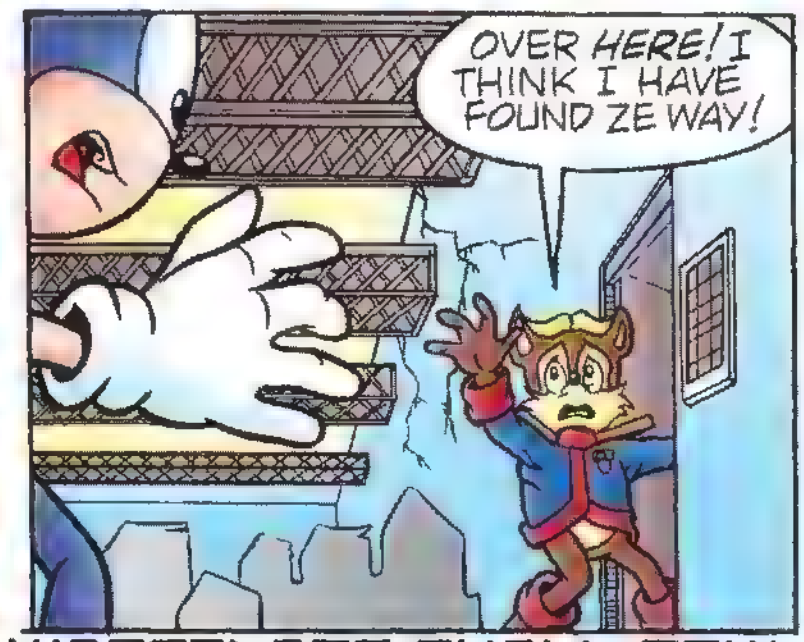
IN FACT, IF I CAN'T HAVE MOBIUS--
OVER THERE, SONIC! ON THAT MONITOR!

--NEITHER WILL YOU!
FILE TAPE
IT MUST BE SOME SORT OF PRE-RECORDED MESSAGE!

FOR MY LAST ACT FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE--
DATA B SE SEA
ZOMEHOW, I DON'T THEENK I'LL LIKE THIS!

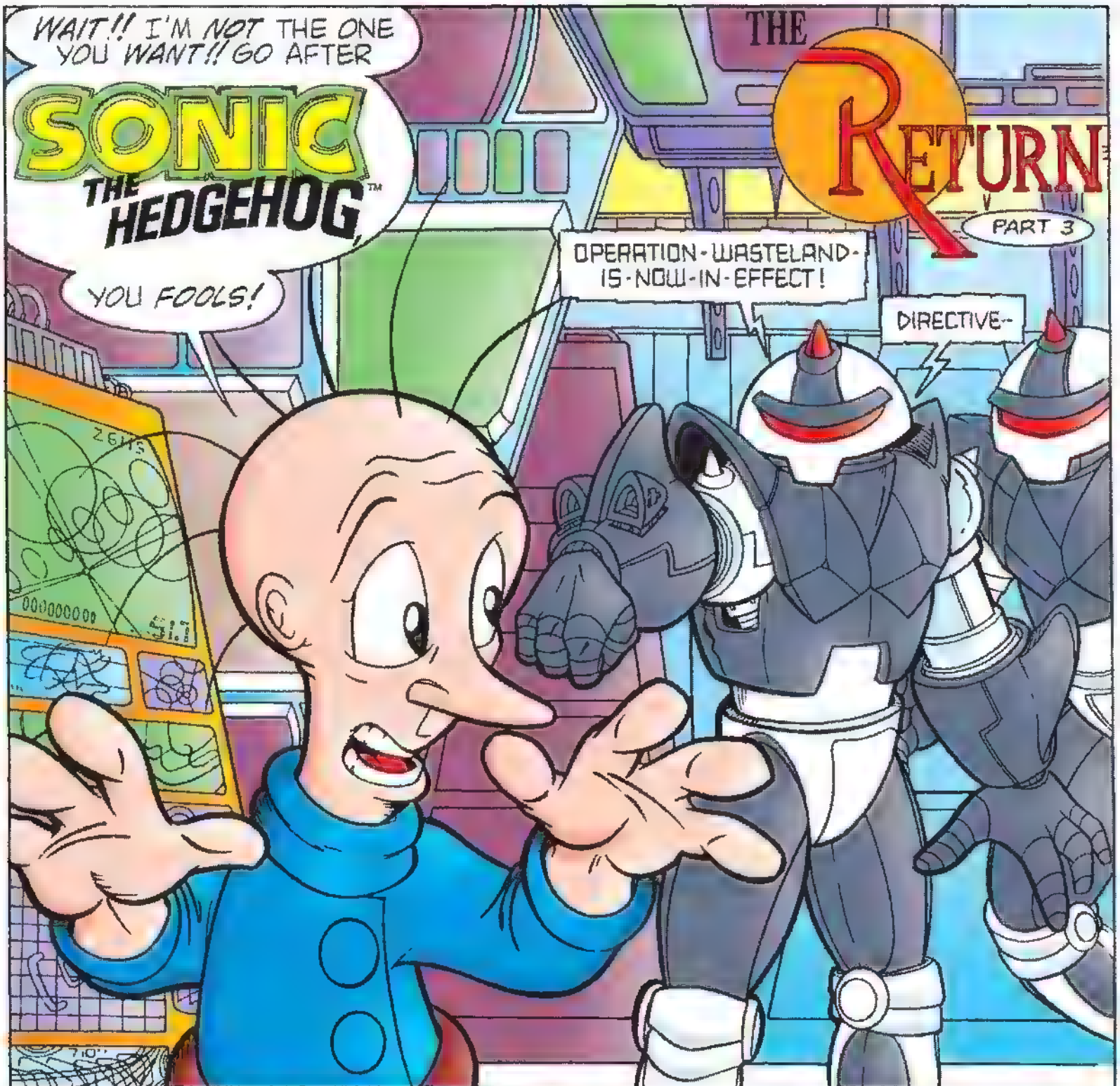

"--I WILL UNLEASH MY ARMY OF SWATBOTS AND OTHER ASSORTED MECHANOIDS TO TOTALLY DEVASTATE, DEMOLISH AND JUST PLAIN TURN MOBIUS INTO A WASTELAND!

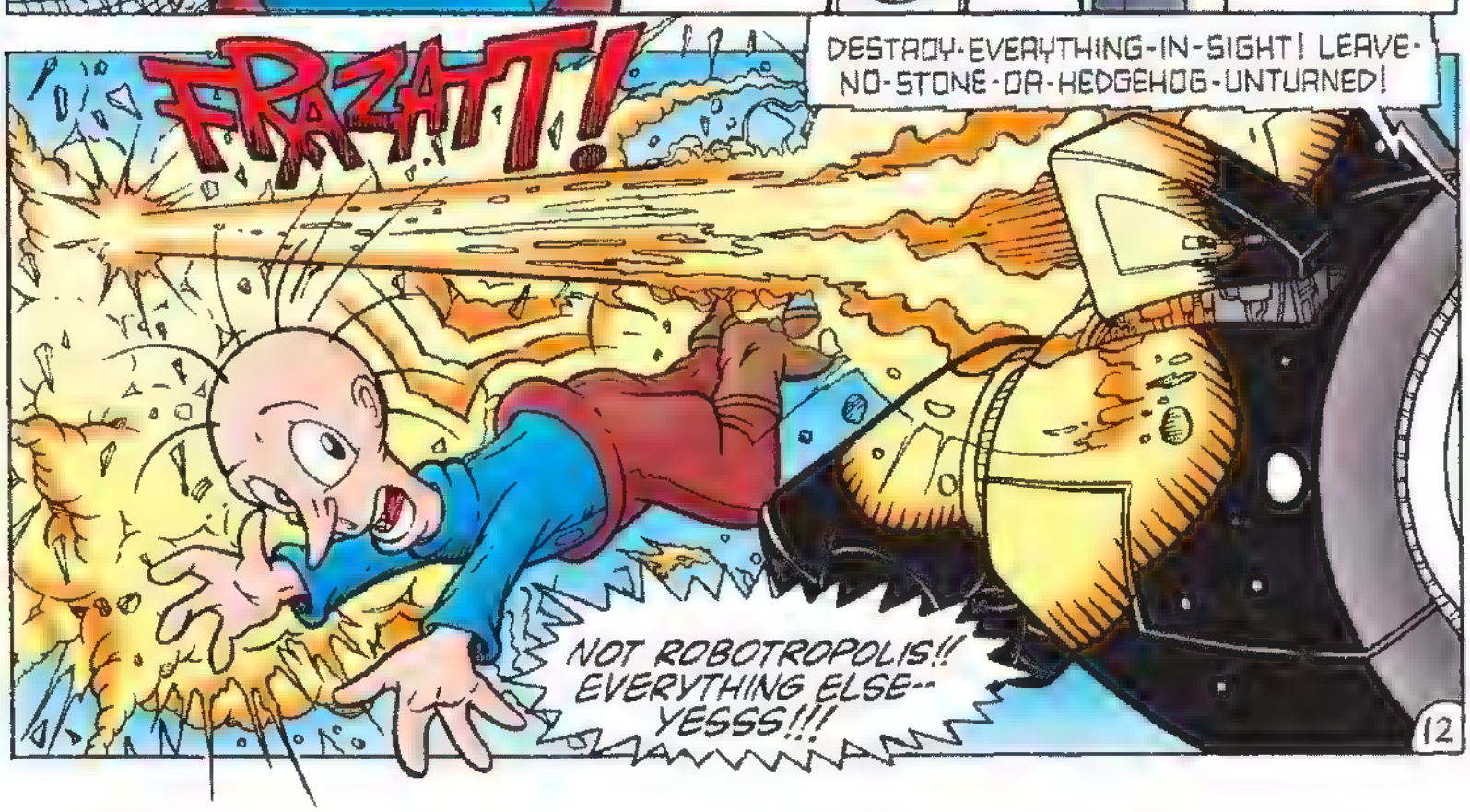
GET DOWN!
ZAP!
ZAP!
ZAP!
ZAP!
WE NEED A PLAN! WE CAN'T HIDE HERE FOREVER!
OKAY, YOU DISTRACT 'IM, SAL -- WHILE I STRUT MY SUPER SONIC STUFF!
ZAP! ZAP!
ZAP!
NOW-- LET'S JUICE!!
TARGET LOCKED
THIS IS GETTING TO BE A TIRESOME HABIT THESE DAYS!
I'M A PRINCESS, NOT A SITTING DUCK!
WELL, THIS BIRD IS JUST PLAIN SCRAPPED!
SHOOM
10

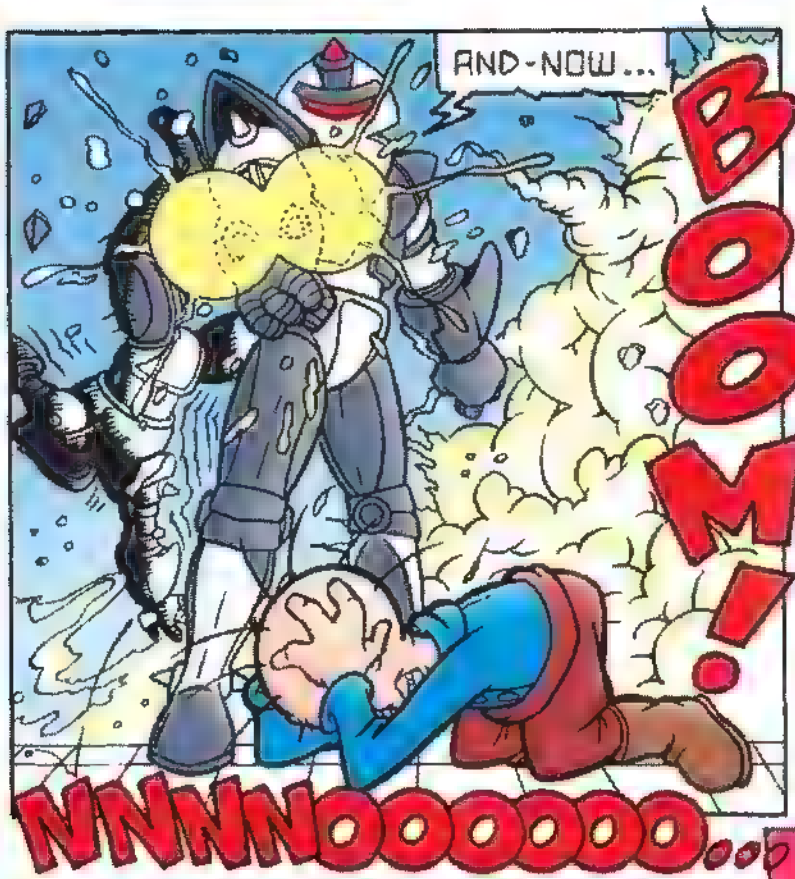


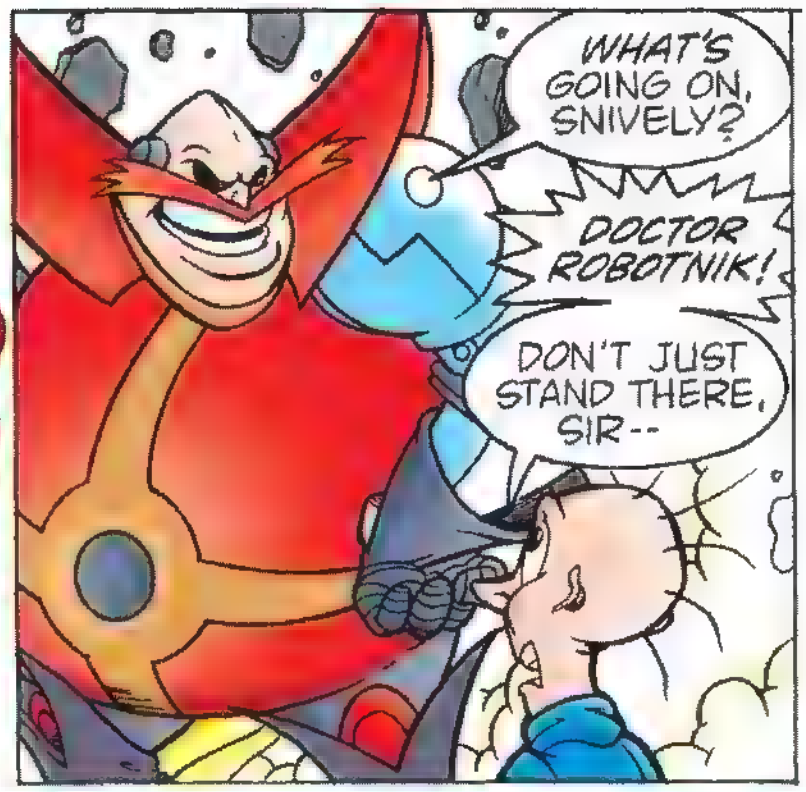
ATTENTION! OPERATION: WASTELAND SHALL NOW COMMENCE! ATTENTION! OPERATION: WASTELAND

END PART 2


WAIT!! I'M NOT THE ONE YOU WANT!! GO AFTER
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™
YOU FOOLS!
THE RETURN
PART 3
OPERATION-WASTELAND-IS-NOW-IN-EFFECT!
DIRECTIVE--


FRAZATT!
DESTROY-EVERYTHING-IN-SIGHT! LEAVE-NO-STONE-OR-HEDGEHOG-UNTURNED!
NOT ROBOTROPOLIS!! EVERYTHING ELSE-- YESSS!!!

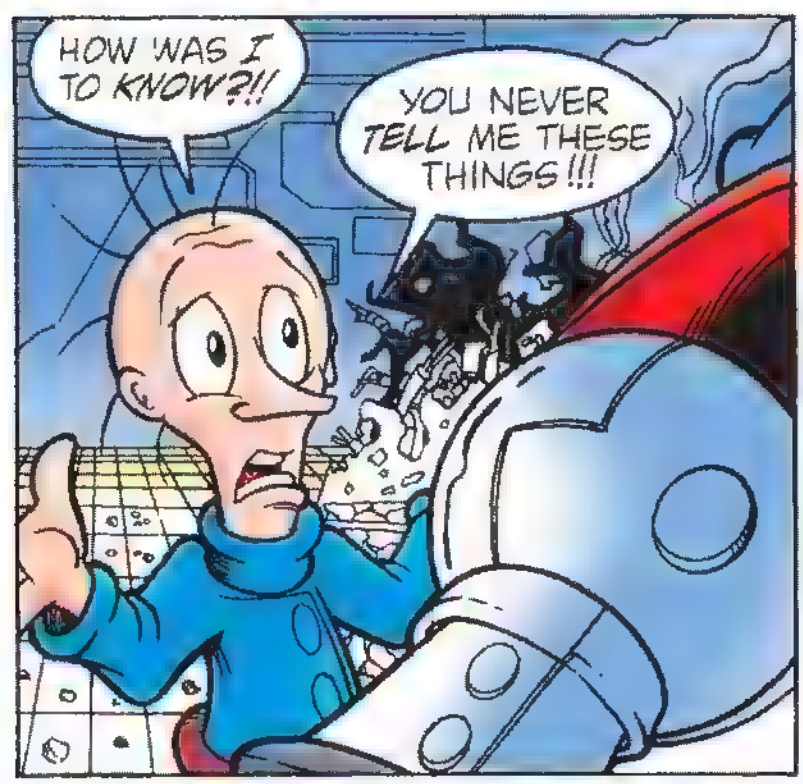

AND-NOW...
BOOM!
NNNNOOOOOOO...

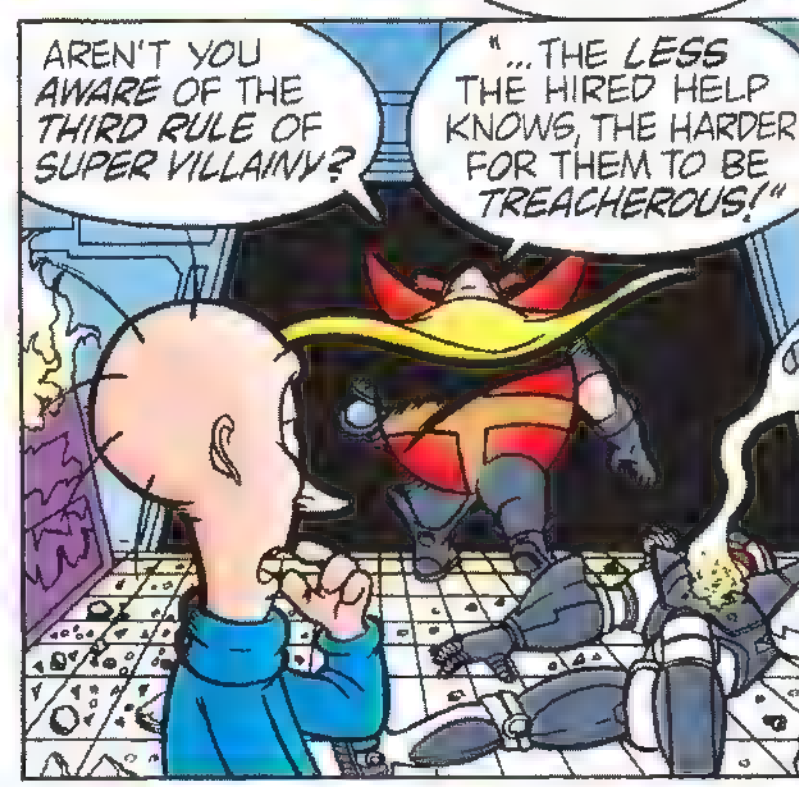

WHAT'S GOING ON, SNIVELY?
DOCTOR ROBOTNIK!
DON'T JUST STAND THERE, SIR--

I CAN'T LEAVE YOU ALONE FOR MORE THAN A FEW MINUTES, CAN I?
--DEACTIVATE THEM!
"TARGETING..."
I XXL SCOPE = '87.1
21.57 MTS.
WHA-?!!
YOU DARE AIM AT YOUR MASTER?!
YEAH! EAT LASER FIRE, SILICON BREATH!!!

YOU BETTER HAVE A GOOD EXPLANATION FOR ALL OF THIS, SNIVELY!
IT'S NOT MY FAULT, SIR! IT'S NOT!! IT'S NOT!!
SOMETHING CALLED OPERATION--

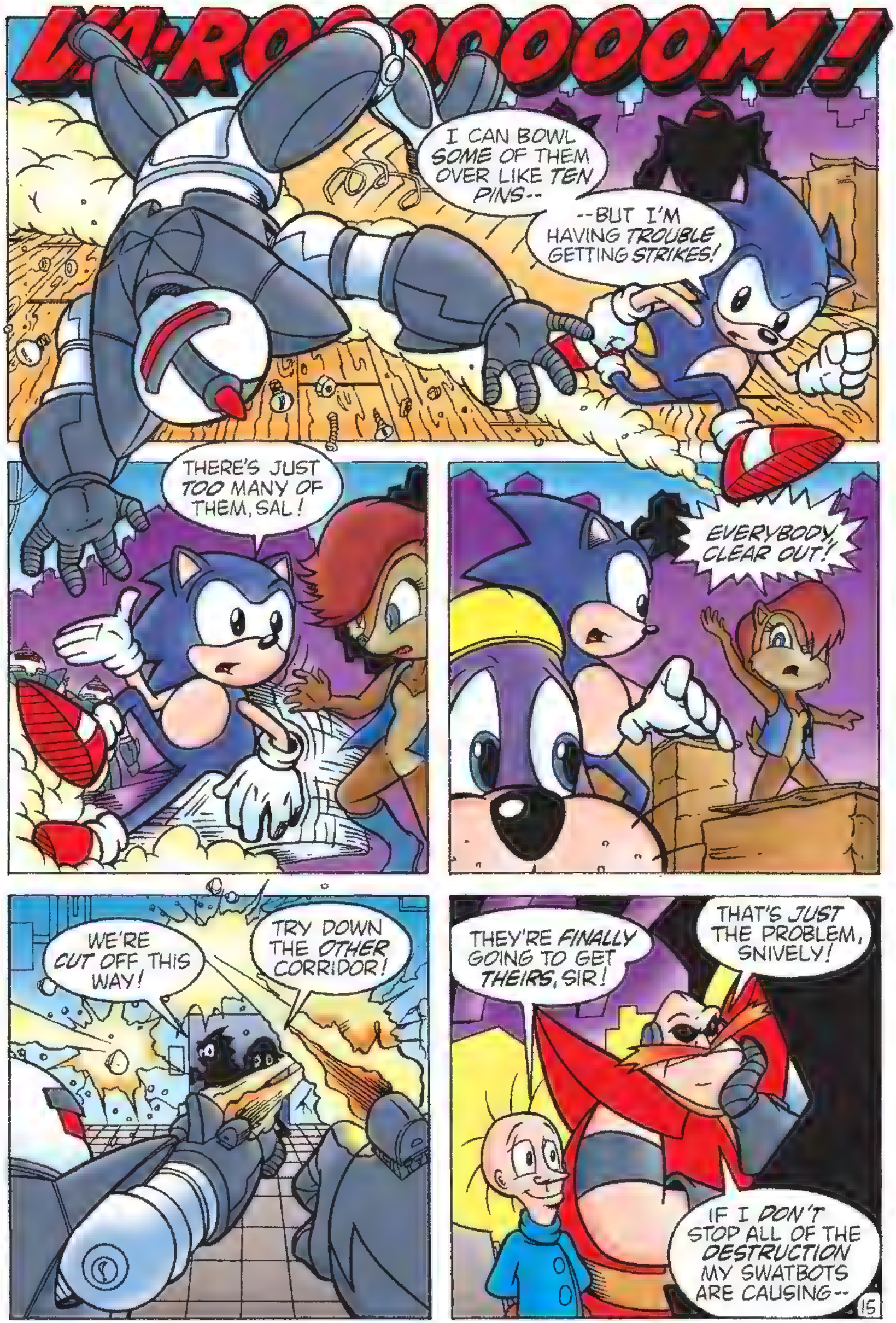
--WASTELAND?!!
OH MY!
YOU IMBECILE!!
YOU MUST HAVE UTTERED THE NECESSARY CODE WORDS: "SONIC HAS FINALLY WON IT ALL!"*
*AND HE DID, ON PAGE 8! -- Scott

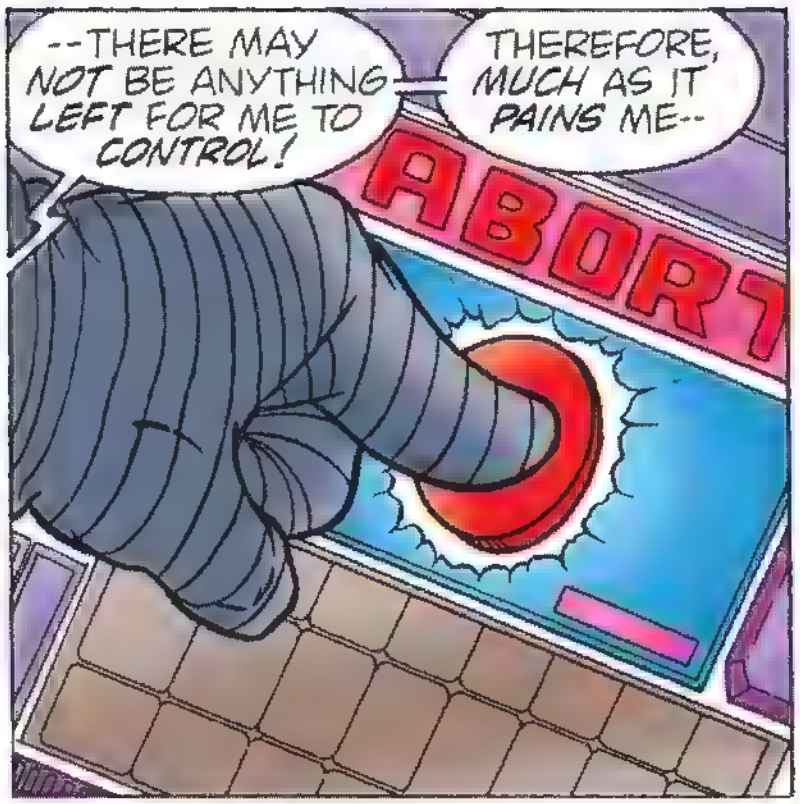

HOW WAS I TO KNOW?!!
YOU NEVER TELL ME THESE THINGS!!!


AREN'T YOU AWARE OF THE THIRD RULE OF SUPER VILLAINY?
"... THE LESS THE HIRED HELP KNOWS, THE HARDER FOR THEM TO BE TREACHEROUS!"

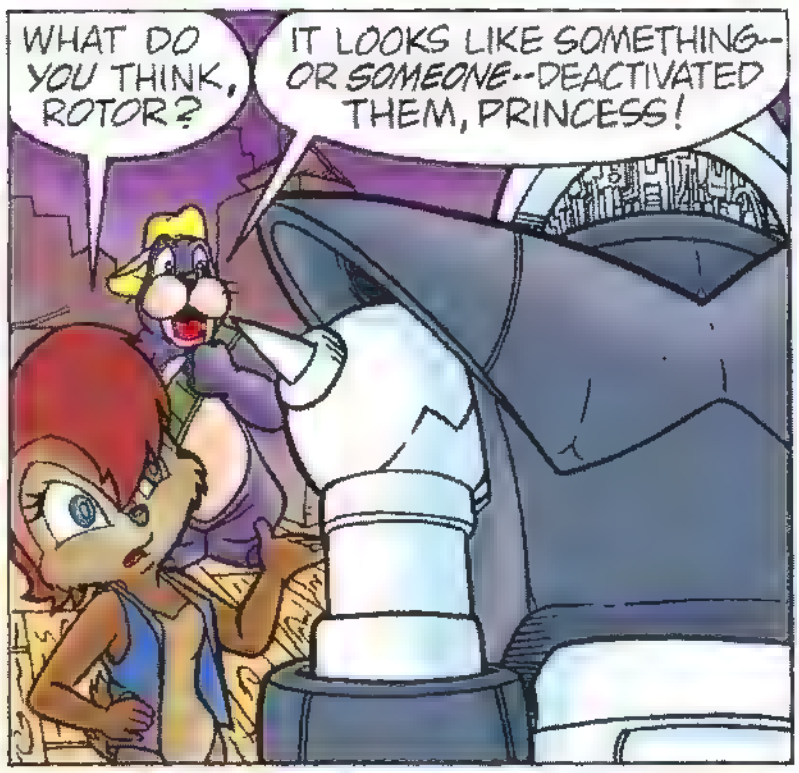
I SEE YOU'RE BACK TO YOUR OLD EVIL SELF, SIR!
IT'S SO GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK...!
:mumble: BIG DOOF :grumble:

YES--AND I CAN SEE I'M GOING TO HAVE TO ACT QUICKLY IF I WANT TO HAVE ANYTHING TO COME HOME TO!


LA-ROOOOOOOM!
I CAN BOWL SOME OF THEM OVER LIKE TEN PINS--
--BUT I'M HAVING TROUBLE GETTING STRIKES!
THERE'S JUST TOO MANY OF THEM, SAL!
EVERYBODY, CLEAR OUT!
WE'RE CUT OFF THIS WAY!
TRY DOWN THE OTHER CORRIDOR!
THEY'RE FINALLY GOING TO GET THEIRS, SIR!
THAT'S JUST THE PROBLEM, SNIVELY!
IF I DON'T STOP ALL OF THE DESTRUCTION MY SWATBOTS ARE CAUSING--


--THERE MAY NOT BE ANYTHING LEFT FOR ME TO CONTROL!
THEREFORE, MUCH AS IT PAINS ME--
ABORT

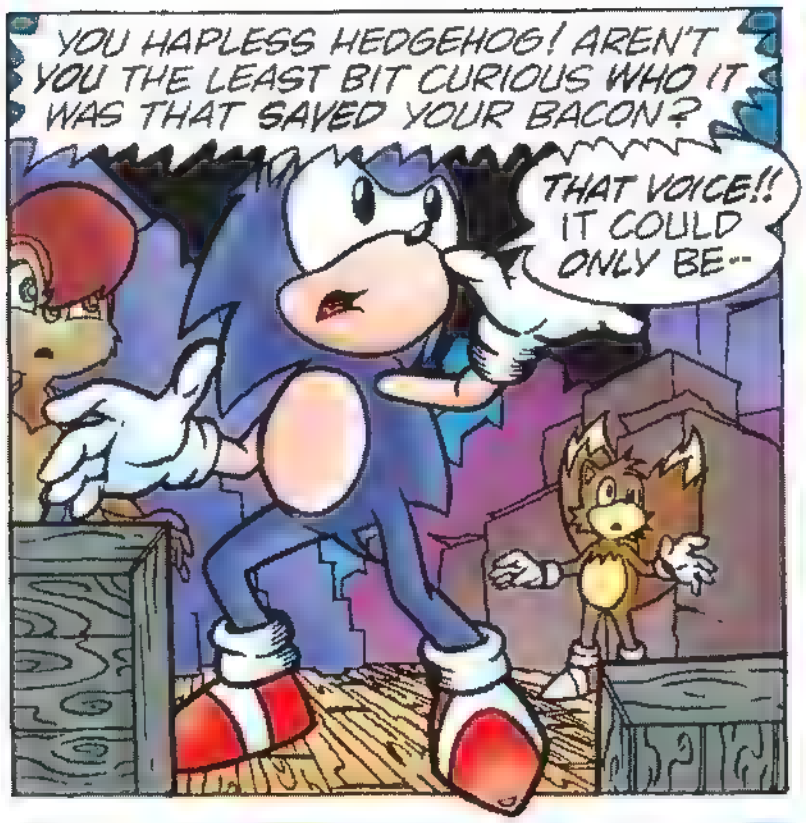
"--I AM FORCED TO DO SOMETHING I KNOW I'LL LIVE TO REGRET!"
THEY STOPPED!

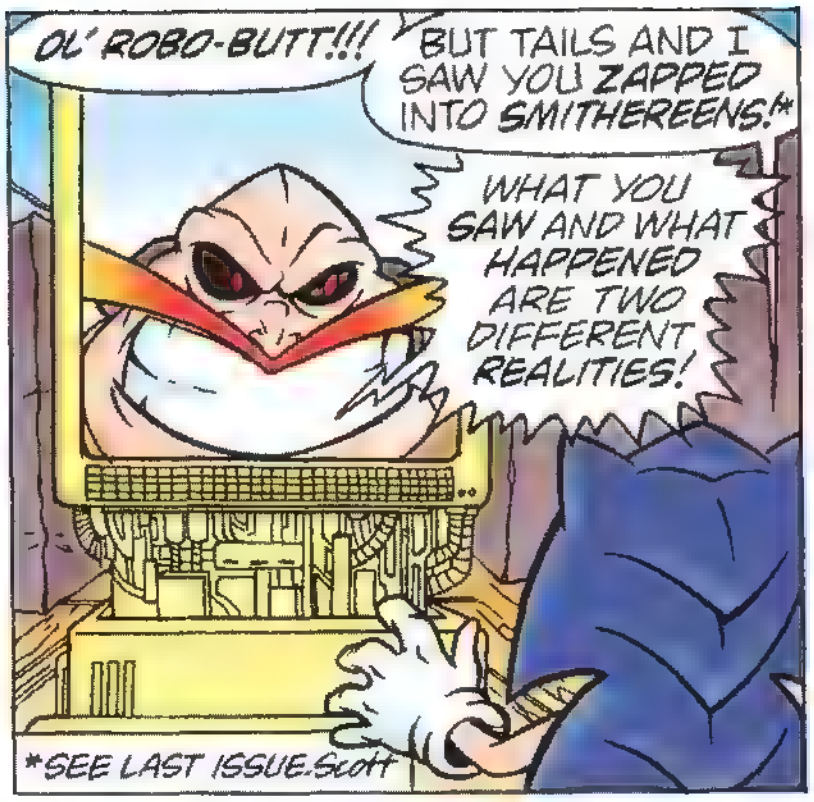

WHAT DO YOU THINK, ROTOR?
IT LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING--OR SOMEONE--DEACTIVATED THEM, PRINCESS!

NEVER MIND THAT!
LET'S GO WHILE THE GETTING'S GOOD!

CAN YOU IMAGINE IF THAT BLUE-FURRED BOOB KNEW THAT HE OWED HIS LIFE TO THE GENEROSITY OF HIS GREATEST ENEMY?
ACTUALLY, SNIVELY--

--YOUR "QUESTION" TRANSLATES INTO AN EXCELLENT STRATEGY!
LETTING SONIC STEW OVER THAT THOUGHT SHOULD CRIPPLE HIS EGO!


YOU HAPLESS HEDGEHOG! AREN'T YOU THE LEAST BIT CURIOUS WHO IT WAS THAT SAVED YOUR BACON?
THAT VOICE!! IT COULD ONLY BE--


OL' ROBO-BUTT!!!
BUT TAILS AND I SAW YOU ZAPPED INTO SMITHEREENS!*
WHAT YOU SAW AND WHAT HAPPENED ARE TWO DIFFERENT REALITIES!
*SEE LAST ISSUE.Scott

I'M VERY MUCH ALIVE AND KICKING!
AND I WANTED THE SATISFACTION OF SEEING YOUR FACE KNOWING IT WAS I WHO SAVED YOUR MISERABLE NECK!
SO WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME? A MEDAL?

JUST YOU REALIZING THAT YOUR FATE IS CONTROLLED BY ME IS VICTORY ENOUGH TODAY!
THAT'LL BE THE DAY, ROBO-PUSS!
DON'T LISTEN TO HIM, SONIC!

THE GAME IS OVER-- FOR NOW.
YOU MAY LEAVE THROUGH THAT DOOR.
BUT NEXT TIME--

--WILL BE OF MY OWN CHOOSING, HEDGEHOG.
WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT IT.

THERE HAS BEEN NO GAIN--THERE HAS BEEN NO LOSS! WE SHALL LIVE TO FIGHT--ANOTHER DAY!
END

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™

in "TAILS' KNIGHT TIME STORY!"

ZOOM

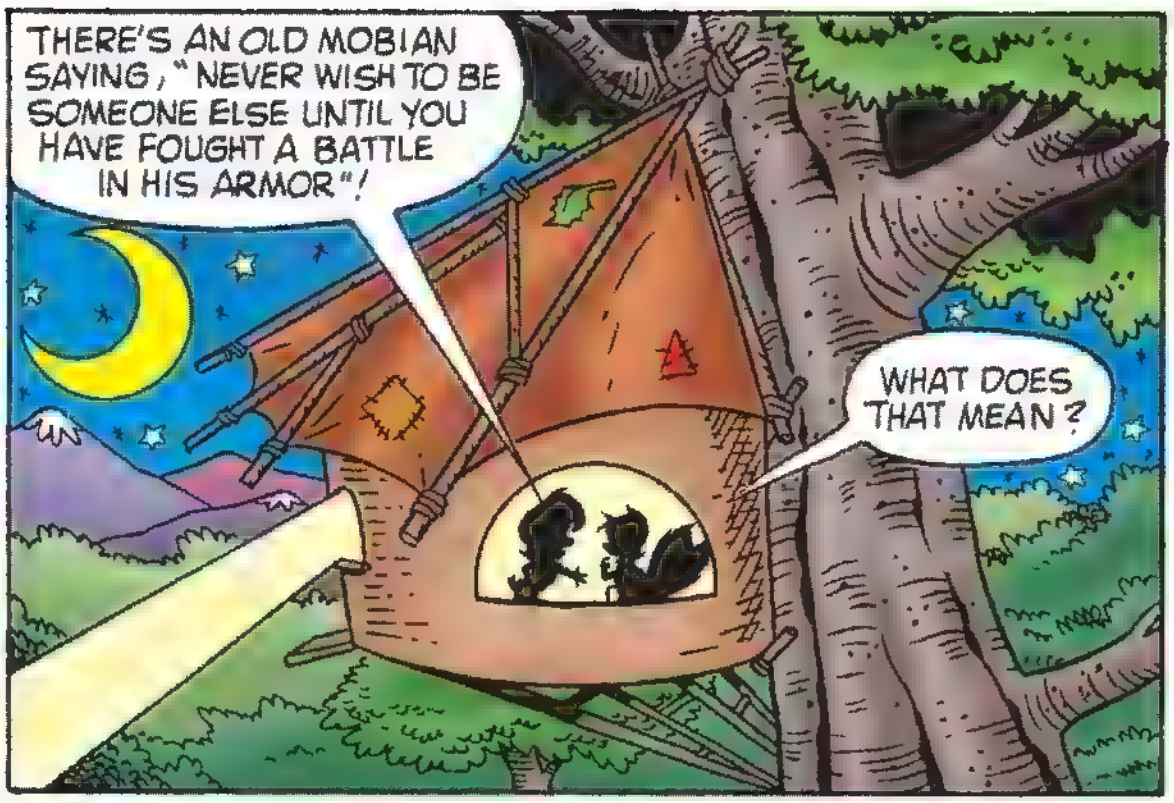
TAILS!

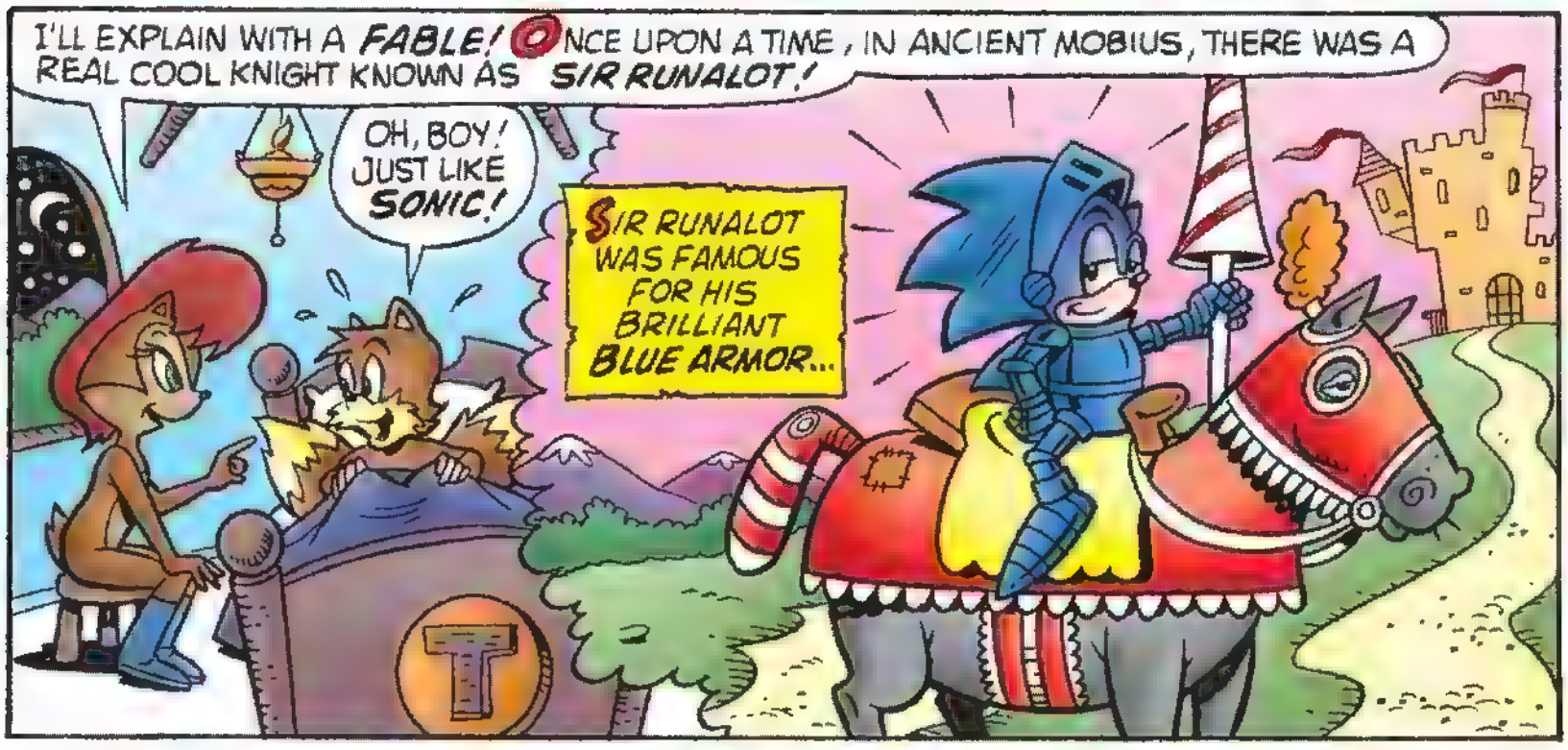
I'M SONIC THE HEDGEHOG RACING TO THE RESCUE!

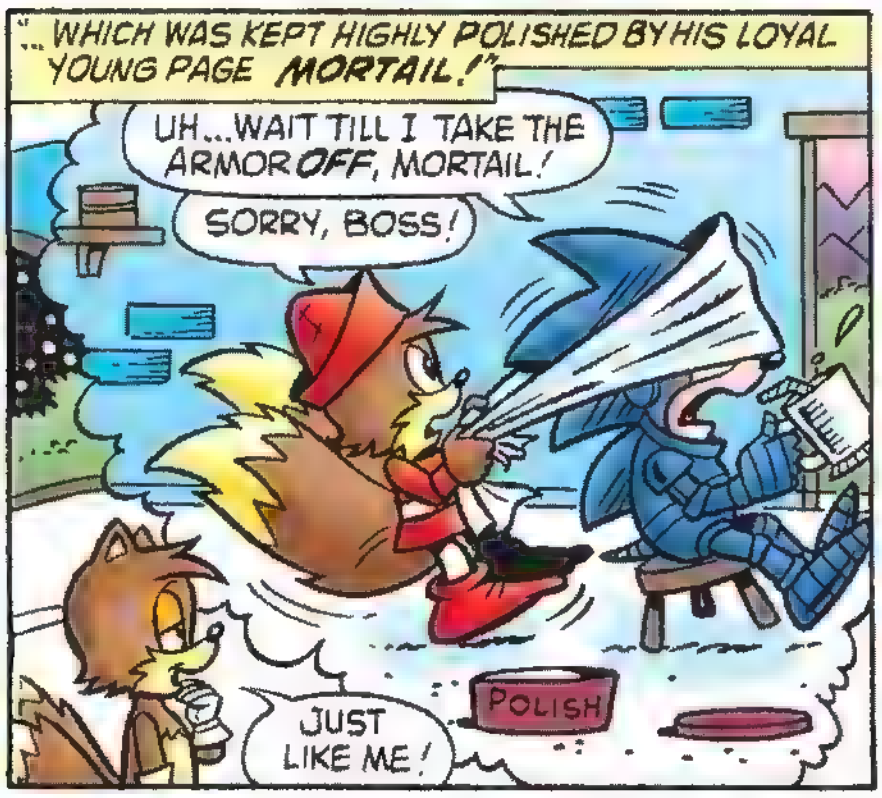
BING!

SCRIPT: ANGELO DECESARE PENCILS: DAVE MANAK INKS: JON DAGASTINO LETTERS: BILL YOSHIDA

...SONIC'S LIFE IS FILLED WITH DANGER AND HARD WORK! IT ONLY LOOKS LIKE FUN TO YOU!


THERE'S AN OLD MOBIAN SAYING, "NEVER WISH TO BE SOMEONE ELSE UNTIL YOU HAVE FOUGHT A BATTLE IN HIS ARMOR"!
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?


I'LL EXPLAIN WITH A FABLE! ONCE UPON A TIME, IN ANCIENT MOBIUS, THERE WAS A REAL COOL KNIGHT KNOWN AS SIR RUNALOT!
OH, BOY! JUST LIKE SONIC!
SIR RUNALOT WAS FAMOUS FOR HIS BRILLIANT BLUE ARMOR...


"...WHICH WAS KEPT HIGHLY POLISHED BY HIS LOYAL YOUNG PAGE MORTAIL!"
UH...WAIT TILL I TAKE THE ARMOR OFF, MORTAIL!
SORRY, BOSS!
POLISH
JUST LIKE ME!

"MORTAIL WOULD FOLLOW SIR RUNALOT EVERYWHERE AS HE WENT ABOUT HIS KNIGHTLY DUTIES!"
I'M FOLLOWING SIR RUNALOT EVERY-WHERE AS HE GOES ABOUT HIS KNIGHTLY DUTIES!
SURE COULD USE A HORSE THOUGH!

"MORTAIL WATCHED AS SIR RUNALOT BESTED THE KING'S ENEMIES WITH THE GREATEST OF EASE!"

OKAY, MORTAIL, YOU CAN TURN THE PAGE NOW!

SO THAT'S WHY I'M CALLED A *PAGE!*

KLANK!

HE'S READING A BOOK WHILE HE FIGHTS US!

WHAT A *NOVEL* IDEA!

KLINK! KLANK!

"HE WATCHED AS SIR RUNALOT WAS SHOWERED WITH GIFTS FROM THE TOWNSPEOPLE...

HAVE A BAG OF GOLD!

WOW!

HAVE A TURKEY!

PLOP!

HAVE A *REAL* TURKEY!

"AND HE WATCHED AS SIR RUNALOT WON THE HEARTS OF THE FAIREST MAIDENS ON MOBIUS!"

YO! HOW ABOUT SOME PRIVACY?

SORRY, BOSS!

"ALL OF THIS MADE MORTAIL VERY SAD... FOR HE LONGED TO BE LIKE HIS HERO SIR RUNALOT, INSTEAD OF A LITTLE INSIGNIFICANT NOBODY!"

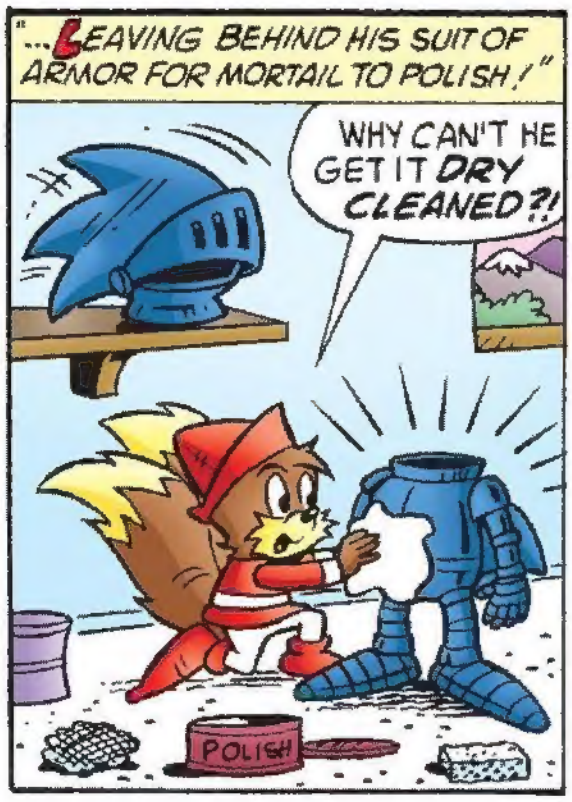
HEY!

OHH! I WISH I WAS SIR RUNALOT! I WISH! I WISH! I WISH! I WISH!

"AND THEN, ONE FATEFUL DAY, IN MERRY MAY... OR MAYBE IT WAS JULY, SIR RUNALOT WENT ON VACATION!

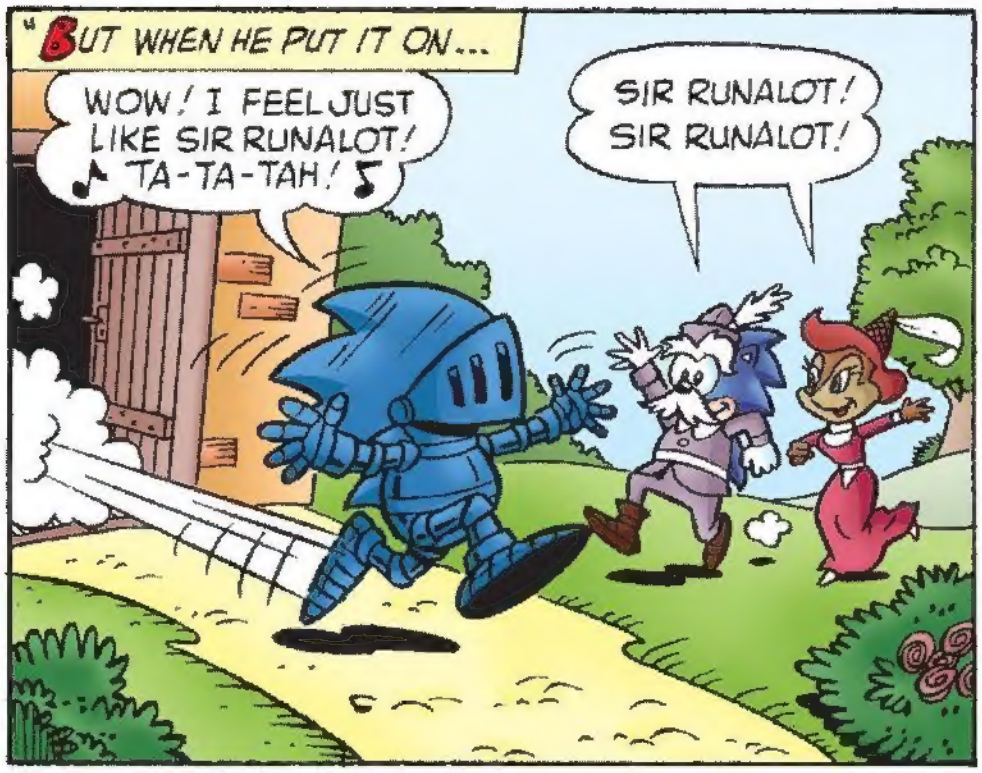
SR

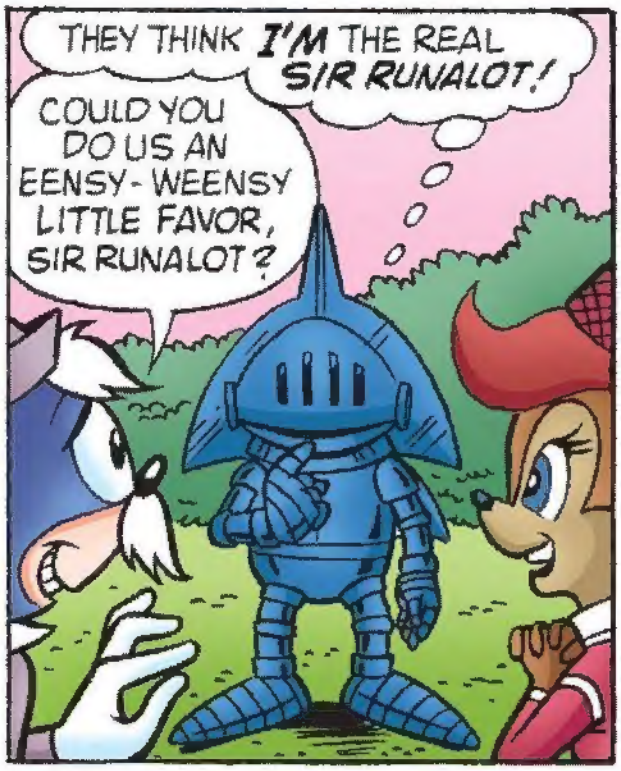
LATER, MO! I'M FLYIN' TO *CLUB MEDIEVAL!*

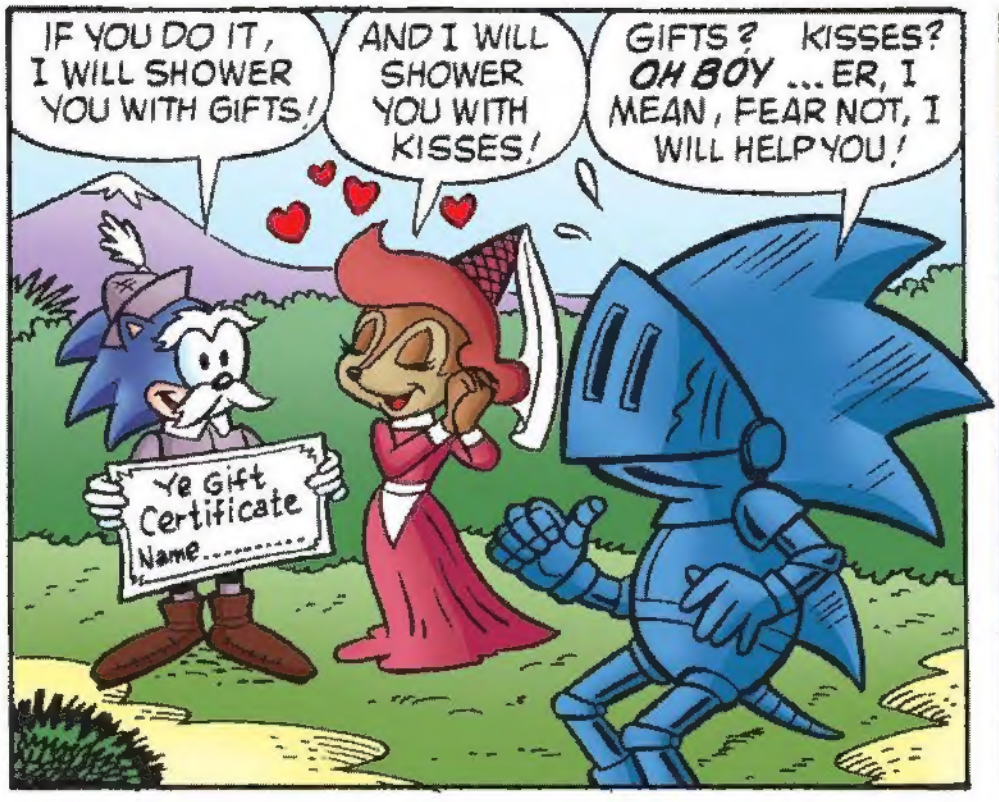

"...LEAVING BEHIND HIS SUIT OF ARMOR FOR MORTAIL TO POLISH!"
WHY CAN'T HE GET IT DRY CLEANED?!
POLISH

"SUDDENLY, MORTAIL WAS STRUCK BY AN IDEA!
CLUNK!
POLISH

"...THIS IS THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO TRY ON SIR RUNALOT'S ARMOR! I'M SURE HE WON'T MIND, HE SAID TO HIMSELF!"
THIS IS THE PERF... HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING SAYING MY LINE?


"BUT WHEN HE PUT IT ON...
WOW! I FEEL JUST LIKE SIR RUNALOT! ♪ TA-TA-TAH! ♪
SIR RUNALOT! SIR RUNALOT!


THEY THINK I'M THE REAL SIR RUNALOT!
COULD YOU DO US AN EENSY-WEENSY LITTLE FAVOR, SIR RUNALOT?


IF YOU DO IT, I WILL SHOWER YOU WITH GIFTS!
AND I WILL SHOWER YOU WITH KISSES!
GIFTS? KISSES? OH BOY ...ER, I MEAN, FEAR NOT, I WILL HELP YOU!
Ye Gift Certificate
Name.....

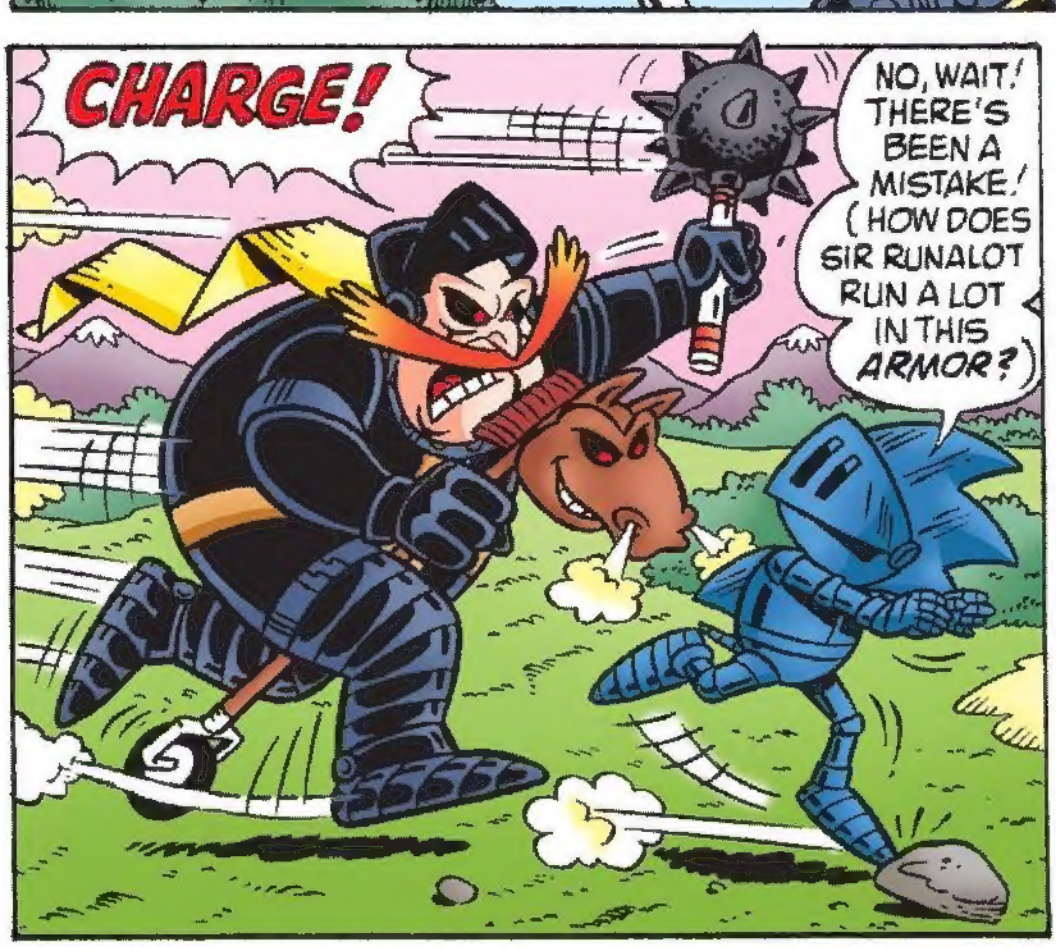
"MORTAIL DECIDED TO PRETEND TO BE SIR RUNALOT AND HAVE SOME FUN FOR A CHANGE!"
?
THIS WAY, SIR RUNALOT!
IT'S JUST A TINY FAVOR!

THE EVIL SIR KNIGHTMARE OF ROBOTANNIA WANTS TO TAKE OVER THE KINGDOM! WE WANT YOU TO THROW HIM OUT!

TH-THROW HIM OUT?!!

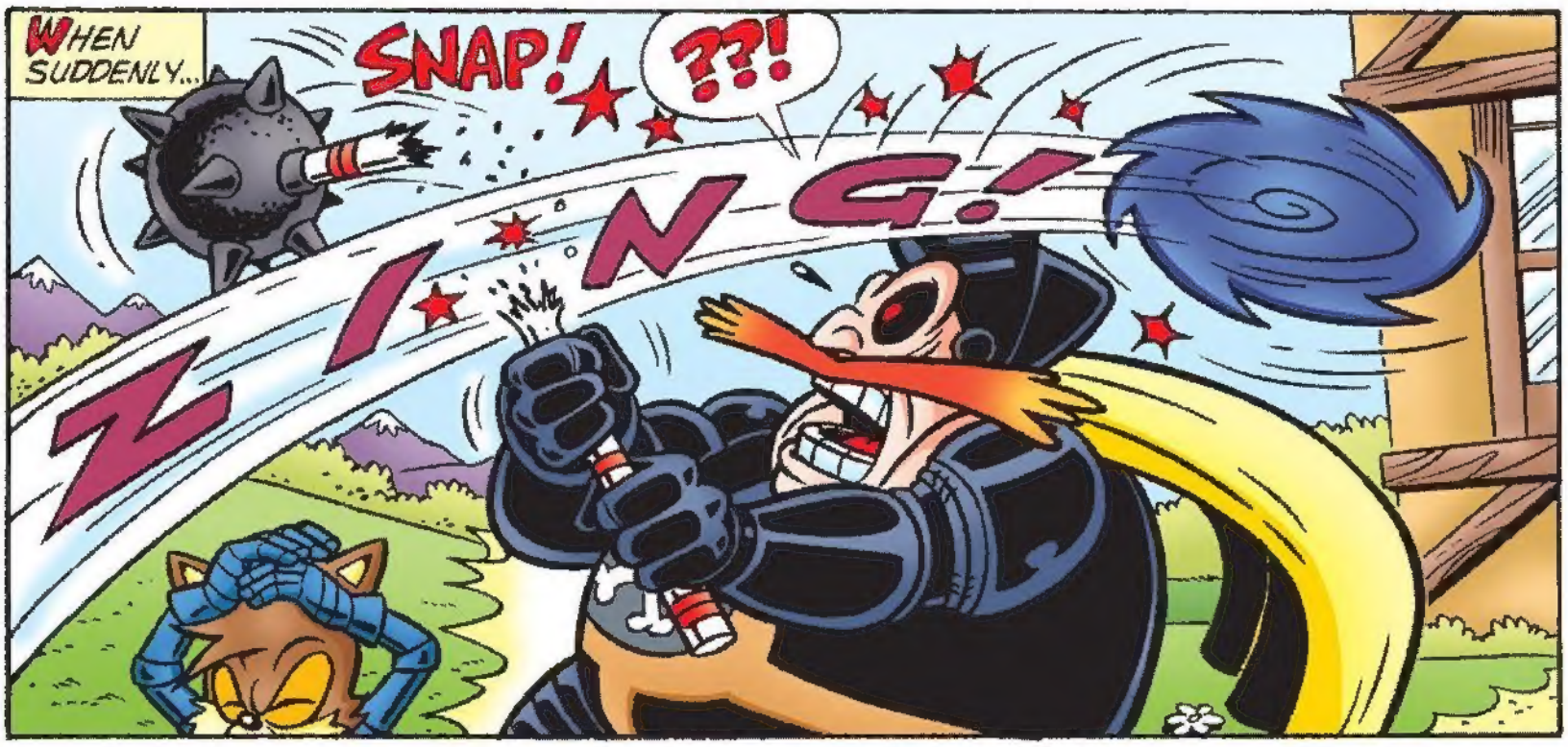
WHERE IS THIS SO-CALLED CHAMPION OF MOBIUS, SIR RUNALOT? I WANT TO MEET FACE TO FACE... OR MACE TO FACE! EEEYAHAHA-HOHO!

THERE HE IS... OLD IRON BELLY!

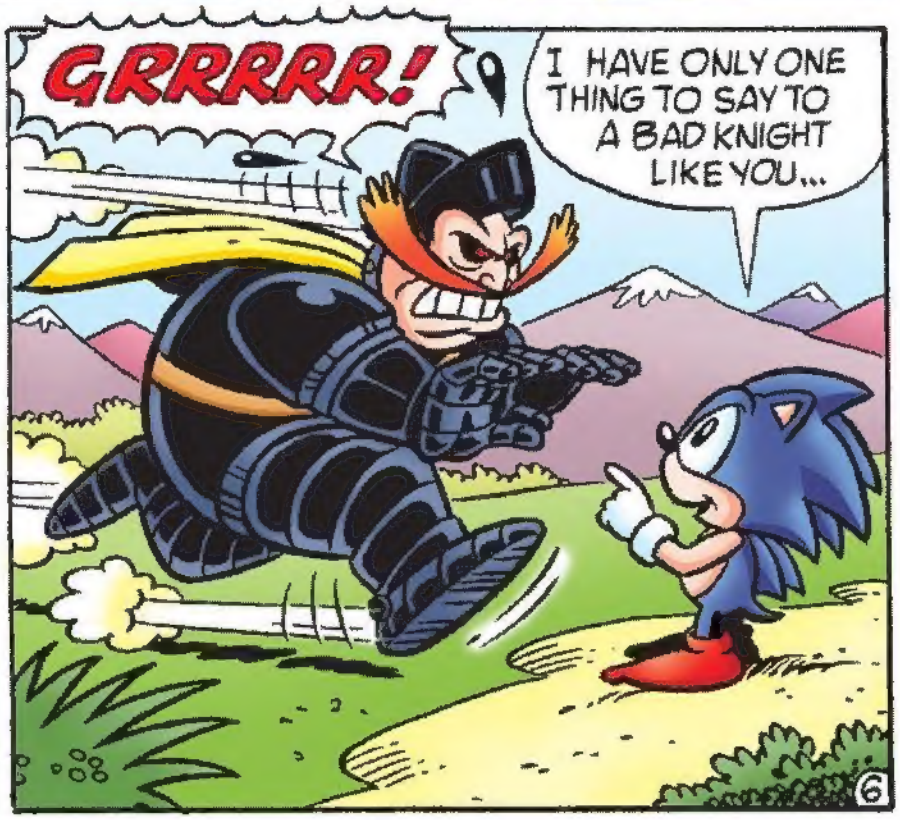


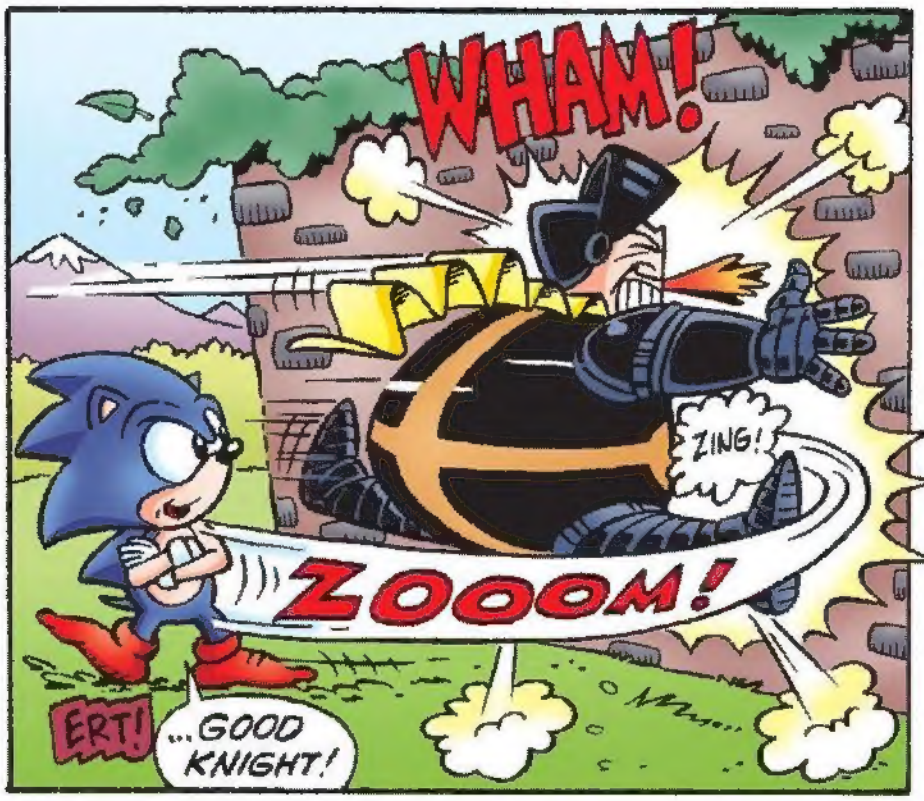
NOW I'VE GOT YOU!
BUT I'M NOT SIR RUNALOT! I'M MORTAIL ...A LITTLE INSIGNIFICANT NOBODY, SEE?

"IT LOOKED LIKE THE END OF MORTAIL!"
COWARD! I RECOGNIZE YOUR BLUE ARMOR! PREPARE TO...


WHEN SUDDENLY...
SNAP!
??!
ZING!

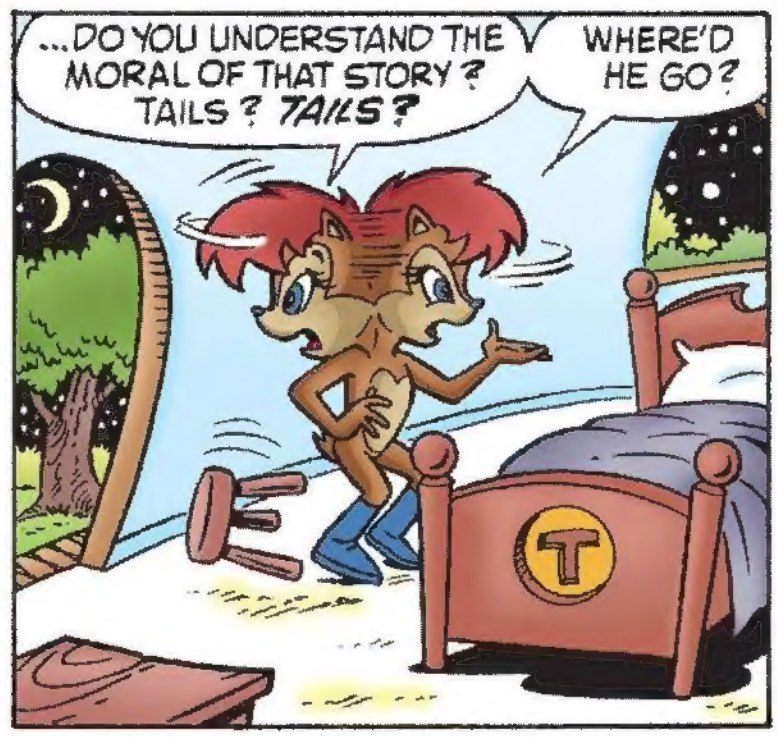
SIR RUNALOT!
YOU'RE BACK!
YEAH! I FORGOT THAT AIRLINES HAVEN'T BEEN INVENTED YET!
WHUMP!


GRRRRR!
I HAVE ONLY ONE THING TO SAY TO A BAD KNIGHT LIKE YOU...

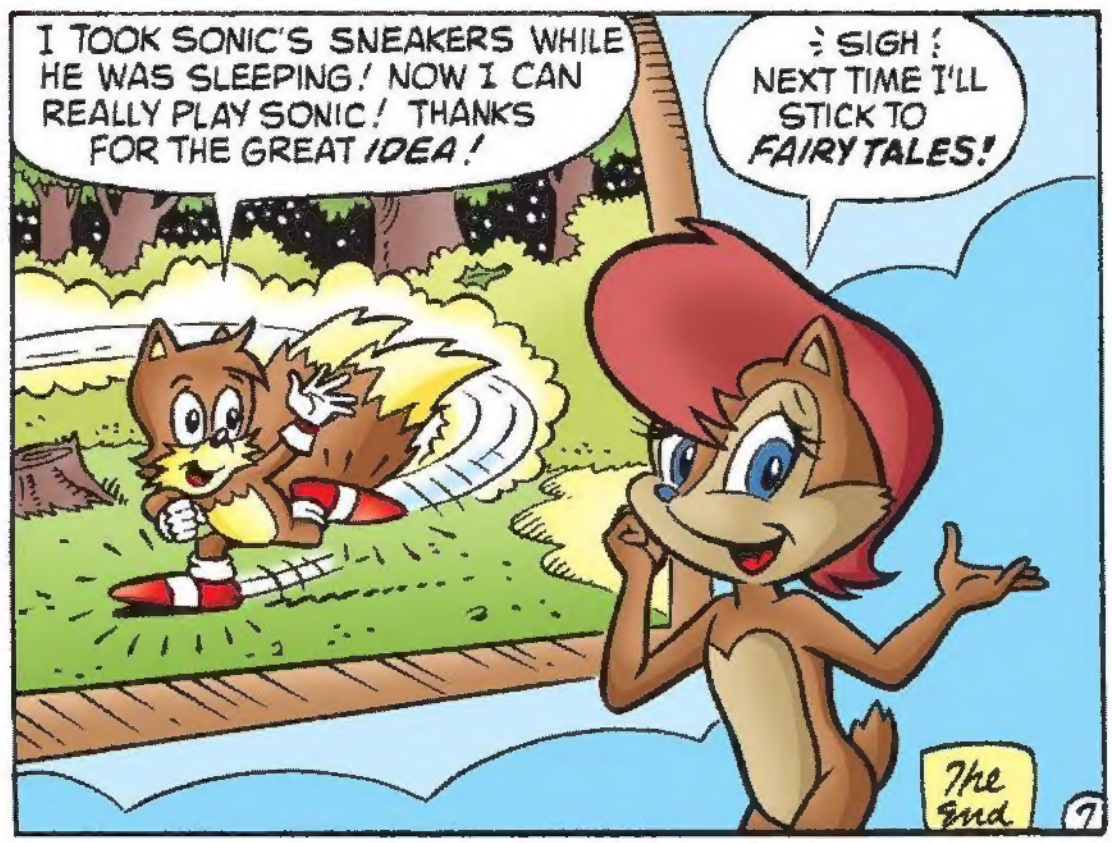

WHAM!
ZING!
ZOOOM!
ERT!
...GOOD KNIGHT!

I'M SORRY I WORE YOUR ARMOR, SIR RUNALOT! PLEASE TAKE IT BACK!
ACTUALLY, MORTAIL, I'VE DISCOVERED THAT I CAN RUN A LOT FASTER *WITHOUT* THE ARMOR!

AND SO, MORTAIL REALIZED THAT BEING A HERO WAS NOT ALWAYS FUN, AND HE LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER! NOW, TAILS...
♪


...DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE MORAL OF THAT STORY? TAILS? *TAILS?*
WHERE'D HE GO?

I'M OUT HERE, SALLY!
HUH?


I TOOK SONIC'S SNEAKERS WHILE HE WAS SLEEPING! NOW I CAN REALLY PLAY SONIC! THANKS FOR THE GREAT *IDEA!*
SIGH! NEXT TIME I'LL STICK TO *FAIRY TALES!*
The End